

RAJASTHAN  
BARMER



सत्यमेव जयते

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## PREFACE

This is the first of a series of district gazetteers being published by Government of Rajasthan under the scheme for revision of district gazetteers sponsored by Government of India. Almost all the districts of Rajasthan were carved out of the erstwhile princely States of Rajputana after integration. Thus Barmer used to form a part of Jodhpur and the area now comprising the district includes the former parganas of Mallani, Shiv, Pachpadra, Siwana and a part of Sanchores. It has necessarily been given a summary treatment in Erskine's Gazetteer for Western Rajputana State and Bikaner Agency published in 1909. A separate gazetteer for the pargana of Mallani was published by Col. C. K. M. Walter in 1877 A.D. It may, therefore, be said that a district gazetteer for Barmer is being published for the first time.

As far as possible, the arrangement of the chapters and the subject matter given in the synopsis prepared by the Central Gazetteers Unit has been closely adhered to. However, due to paucity of material, the chapter on 'Miscellaneous Occupations' (Chapter VIII) has been combined with the chapter on 'Economic Trends' (Chapter IX) and the chapter on 'Social Welfare' (Chapter XVII) with chapter on 'Public Life' (Chapter XVIII), reducing the total number of chapters from 19 to 17. The suggestions made by the Central Gazetteers Unit and the Provisional figures of 1961 Census have been duly incorporated. A select bibliography and an index have also been added. Due to unavoidable circumstances, it has not been possible to publish the map of the district.

D. C. JOSEPH.

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Culturable waste land amounted to 3,98,430 acres, equal to 12.34 per cent of the net cultivated area. The extent of culturable waste land has fluctuated during the period 1955-56 to 1960-61; it touched the high mark of 32.45 per cent in 1957-58, when the total area of such land was 9,04,803 acres.

The primary reason for this fluctuation is that culturable waste land in this district is comprised mainly of sandy tracts (*dhoras*) which are ploughed during years of good rain, and are otherwise neglected.

These findings on land utilization are tabulated below:—

#### LAND UTILIZATION

##### (a) Cultivated land

(Acres)

Year	Net area sown	Current fallow	Total area of the Distt. according to the village papers	Area sown more than once
1	2	3	4	5
1955-56	28,03,090	7,94,462	68,63,500	8,597
1956-57	27,23,948	13,07,075	68,85,739	6,234
1957-58	27,69,730	9,67,873	69,40,525	3,244
1958-59	28,25,250	12,10,620	69,62,385	4,134
1959-60	31,85,902	4,83,279	69,62,008	4,787
1960-61	32,34,446	6,33,834	69,62,037	4,613

##### (b) Uncultivated land

Year	LAND NOT AVAILABLE FOR CULTIVATION			OTHER UNCULTIVATED LAND EXCLUDING FALLOW LANDS			OTHER FALLOWS
	Forests	Barren land	Land put to non-agri. uses	Perma-nent pastures	Land under § Misc. tree crops & groves	Culturable waste	
1955-56	—	9,41,665	1,51,088	2,69,574	—	6,31,338	12,71,951
1956-57	—	3,81,172	1,50,562	2,20,393	158	8,95,701	12,06,730
1957-58	—	3,36,470	2,21,789	2,12,857	451	9,04,803	15,26,552
1958-59	29,114	3,81,608	1,78,263	4,64,902	23	3,71,470	15,01,135
1959-60	29,156	3,16,955	2,26,079	4,85,501	8	3,81,149	18,53,979
1960-61	29,326	3,60,005	1,91,004	4,75,890	44	3,98,430	16,39,058

§ Not included in net area sown.

## Classification of sown area

(Acres)

Year	Total area sown	Area sown more than once	Net area sown	Total area under food crops	Total area under non-food crops
1	2	3	4	5	6
1955-56	28,11,687	8,597	28,03,090	18,55,279½	9,56,407½
1956-57	27,30,182	6,234	27,23,948	22,33,351	4,96,831
1957-58	27,72,974	3,244	27,69,730	22,50,485	5,22,489
1958-59	28,29,384	4,134	28,25,250	22,96,845½	5,32,538½
1959-60	31,90,689	4,787	31,85,902	24,96,160½	6,94,526½
1960-61	32,39,659	4,613	32,34,446	26,96,832½	5,42,226½

## Afforestation

A serious problem is that of checking the march of the desert, which already covers most of the district. It has been estimated that the desert is expanding eastward at the rate of about half a mile every year. The Desert Afforestation and Soil Conservation Station at Jodhpur, set up by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, is studying this problem and taking counter-measures. The activities of the station are still, however, in the experimental and research stage.

One unit of the station is situated at Gadra Road in the extreme west of this district. In this unit, experimental plantation has been carried out with the following species of trees:—

*Casurina equisetifolia*, *Albizia lebbek*, *Cassia siamea*, *Tamarix articulata*, *Eucalyptus rostrata* and *Acacia cyanophylla*. As a result of these experiments, it has been found that the *Eucalyptus rostrata*, *Tamarix articulata*, *Acacia cyanophylla* and *Albizia lebbek* species, in that order of suitability, can be utilized for afforestation under extremely arid conditions, provided sufficient water is available during the first two years of growth. Such favourable conditions, however, are rarely met with in this tract.

The Gadra unit has three nurseries where young plants are raised for the plantation programme. These nurseries are located at Gadra Road itself, Barmer and Shiv. The Gadra Road and Barmer nurseries were established in 1953 and that at Shiv in 1957. The nur-

series distribute seeds and plants to the panchayat samities and other development bodies, schools, hospitals, police and R.A.C. units and also to private individuals.

One important aspect of the work of the unit is the undertaking of road-side plantation. So far, plantation has been undertaken on the following roads: Barmer-Shiv, Shiv-Balesar, Barmer-Sindhari, Ranasar-Harsani and Gadra Road-customs border. As much as 82 per cent of survivals has been reported from the Gadra Road-customs border road, but the results elsewhere have been disappointing due to unfavourable weather conditions; Gadra Road itself has adequate watering facilities. An additional serious problem has been that of protecting the young trees from grazing by animals.

Another important activity has been the study of the movement of sand at Barmer, which has shown that mulching with grass material is extremely useful in countering the problem of sand drift. As a result of this finding, an area of 176 acres north-west of Barmer town was taken up for treatment in 1957-58 in order to protect the new colonies and the old town itself from sand drifts. Mulching was done with grass at right angles to the wind direction and in between the mulched strips seeds of *bajra*, *moong*, *guar* and *sarson* were sown after the outbreak of the rains in early August. On either side of the sown lines a mixture of grass seed was sown and nearly 4,000 trees planted. Unfortunately, the abrupt closure of the monsoon soon after its outbreak ruined the plantation. The experiment has since been resumed on a lesser scale.

## IRRIGATION

### Rivers

There is only one river of consequence in the whole of the district, i.e., the Luni. Irrigation is carried out through wells along its course, as already described in the first chapter. Though a seasonal river, the Luni is thus of considerable importance to the economy of the district. There is no dam on its course through Barmer, and hence no canal irrigation, but the wells on the banks of the river and its tributaries form the most important source of irrigation in the district.

### Lakes and Tanks

Apart from the Pachpadra depression, which sometimes has the appearance of lake during the monsoon, there is no natural lake

in the district. As the water, which collects in this depression, is highly saline, it is useless from the point of view of agriculture. Numbers of small tanks exist but most are dry by March and in any case they are used primarily as sources of drinking water for men and animals.

In fact, the only irrigation tank in the district is that near the village of Meli in Siwana tehsil. This is an old bund 1,200 ft. long and 20ft. high with a catchment area of about 90 sq. miles. It has recently been repaired. The storage capacity of the tank is about 164 million cu. ft. and it is estimated that, once channels are dug, it will command an area of more than 1,600 acres. At present, however, the total area served, including the area under bed cultivation, is only about 500 acres.

There is no office of an Irrigation Engineer in the district and the Meli bund is maintained by the Irrigation Department's Jawai Canals Division at Jawai—Erinpura Road. However, a number of irrigation surveys have been undertaken by the office of the Assistant Engineer (Irrigation), Surveys and Investigation sub-division, Jalore, as follows:—

*Khulal Scheme:*—This scheme, in Shiv tehsil would serve an area of 250 acres. The estimated cost is Rs. 30,000.

*Bamsin Scheme:*—This was a scheme in Siwana tehsil to irrigate an area of 1,000 acres, the cost being about Rs. 2.5 lakhs. It has been dropped after investigation due to (1) the railway line coming under water, (2) the soil being saline and (3) the commanded area being already covered by the Meli bund scheme.

*Nakora Scheme:*—This is an important scheme near Sindhari in Barmer tehsil designed to serve an area of 15,000 acres. The survey is complete but foundation investigations have still to be done. The problem of over-flow has not yet been solved.

The above schemes have already been surveyed. In addition, site inspections have been carried out on the following schemes with the results indicated:—

*Didas bund:*—Not to be taken up as the commanded area is covered by the proposed Giroliya scheme in Pali.

*Sella Scheme:*—Near Mokalsar in Siwana tehsil. It has been suggested that an anicut may be constructed in the upper reaches of the stream.

*Gura Dam*:—Given up as the water is to be diverted to the Meli bund.

*Gole Scheme*:—Near the village of Gole on the river Luni. This has been given up in favour of the Nakora Project.

*Janiyana Diversion Scheme*:—Dropped as the land is saline; the Pachpadra Inundation Scheme has been abandoned for similar reasons.

Other schemes abandoned are the Undka-ka-Nalla and Ranigaon schemes near Barmer town.

The engineers have suggested that the following small schemes may be undertaken by the panchayat samitis:—

<i>Scheme</i>						<i>Panchayat Samiti</i>
Sinli Tank	..	..	..	..	..	Pachpadra
Korna	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Asotra	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Tirsigare	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Jacol	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Balu	..	..	..	..	..	Siwana
Bagunda (near Gungrat)		..	..	..	..	do.
Khakerlai	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Rayala	..	..	..	..	..	do.

Except for the Sinli tank, which is an old bund breached 50 years back and will cost about Rs. 30,000 to repair, these small schemes would cost less than Rs. 10,000 each.

From the above description it will be apparent that such irrigation schemes, as there are in the district, are confined to the eastern areas and are designed to make the best possible use of the water in the Luni and the streams that flow into it as well as natural depressions where these occur. In the north and west of the district, where the water problem is most acutely felt, no canal or tank irrigation is possible.

*Wells and Tube-wells*:—A few experimental tube-wells have been sunk in various places to the water table 200 to 300 ft. below the surface, but none is yet functioning. In the absence of other sources, irrigation in the district is thus almost entirely dependent on

wells. At present, there is a total of 23,485 wells, the tehsil-wise distribution being as follows:—

Barmer .. .. .	3,773
Siwana .. .. .	12,621
Pachpadra .. .. .	6,867
Shiv .. .. .	5
Chohtan .. .. .	219
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>23,485</b>

In 1959-60 wells irrigated an area of 18,861½ acres and accounted for all but 16 acres of land under irrigation. Figures of irrigation from the Meli bund are not included. Similarly, in 1958-59, only two acres were irrigated by other sources out of a total irrigated area of 23,487 acres and in 1956-57, wells irrigated 18,182 acres of a total irrigated area of 18,244 acres. In 1955-56 and 1957-58 no other source of irrigation was listed. In 1960-61, wells accounted for the whole irrigated area of 23,327 acres.

Most of the well irrigation is in the eastern tehsil of Siwana, where the total area served in 1960-61 was 12,862 acres. Next came Pachpadra with 6,715 acres, followed by Barmer tehsil with 3,614 acres. The arid tehsils of Shiv and Chohtan had only 16 and 120 acres of irrigated land, respectively, in that year.

### Dependence on Rainfall

The farmers have thus to depend almost entirely on the meagre rainfall for their agricultural operations. In 1960-61 only 0.72 per cent of the net cropped area received any irrigation. The percentage in 1955-56 was 0.63.

### Irrigation by Sources

Source	Irrigation by Sources						(Acres)
	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	
Tanks .. .. .	..	62	..	..	..	..	
Tube-Wells ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Wells .. .. .	17,932	18,182	21,668	23,485	18,861½	23,327	
Other Sources ..	..	..	..	2	16	..	
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>17,932</b>	<b>18,244</b>	<b>21,668</b>	<b>23,487</b>	<b>18,877½</b>	<b>23,327</b>	

## Irrigation by Crops

(Acres)

Crop	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Cereals and Millets</b>						
1. Jowar ..	132	3	83	463	19	—
2. Bajra ..	—	—	3	4	—	8
3. Maize ..	432½	85	139	151	17	61
4. Wheat ..	14,184	17,494	18,883	19,624	16,035½	19,757
5. Barley ..	491	702	633	624½	572	791
<b>Pulses</b>						
6. Gram ..	19	—	—	—	2	—
7. Tur ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Other pulses	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Condiments & Spices ..	—	—	349	917	1,195½	894½
10. Fruits & vegetables including root crops ..	—	—	364	457½	449½	561½
11. Other food crops	881	507	3	8	½	12
<b>Oilseeds</b>						
12. Groundnut ..	—	—	—	4	—	—
13. Rape & Mustard	—	—	98	92½	73½	85½
14. Others ..	—	—	4	13½	14½	6½
<b>Miscellaneous crops</b>						
15. Cotton ..	935	98	115	121	19	19
16. Fodder crops	—	—	993	1,007½	476½	1,122
17. Other non-food crops ..	857½	709	1	—	3	9½
(Tobacco)						
TOTAL under all crops ..	17,932	19,598	21,618	23,487	18,877½	23,327

## Soil Erosion

There are two major types of soil erosion, viz., sheet and gully erosion. In this district, gully erosion is met with only in the damper eastern tehsils but elsewhere there is considerable sheet erosion as the loose sandy soil is blown by strong winds. The traditional method of checking such erosion is to plant branches of trees along the boundary walls of fields. These branches offer some resistance (though pitifully inadequate) to the winds, the operation being called *kana bandi*.

The district authorities are experimenting with certain species of hardy shrubs which, when planted across the wind direction, should prove more effective in checking sheet erosion than the traditional method.

Contour-bunding:—The slope of the land in the Siwana and Balotra areas varies from 1:200 to 1:250 with the result that, when rain falls, the earth is scoured and mud deposited on the fields, injuring the crops, while the water itself flows on. In order to protect the crops and at the same time retain moisture in the fields for the *rabi* season, a scheme of protective bunds has been introduced in these areas. These bunds are of particular importance to the villages of Rakhi, Bamsin and Mangla in Siwana tehsil, where the river Mitri inundates large area, and also places through which the Undka, Ranigaon, Kawas and Khoriyal streams flow. Rakhi village, incidentally, recently won first prize in an all-Rajasthan competition for contour-bunding. There is also scope for contour-bunding in between sand dunes in the drier areas so that such rain, as does fall may be trapped in selected areas in order to grow better crops.

## Water Potential

Between 1947 and 1949, the Geological Survey of India carried out ground water surveys in the Jodhpur and Bikaner areas in order to determine areas, where such water was drinkable and where brackish. One zone of drinkable water claimed to be discovered was around Shergarh, which lies due north of Balotra and near the border of Barmer district. Such explorations, if continued into the district itself, would be of immense value in determining, where tube-wells should be sunk. It is known that over most of north and west Barmer, where the water problem is very acute, the level of the sub-soil water ranges from about 200 to 300 ft.



## AGRICULTURE

## Soil and Crops

Four types of soil are met with, namely (1) sandy, known as *thal* and occupying three quarters of the entire area, (ii) sandy clay (*nayar*) which is generally heavily impregnated with salt and thus produces very poor crops, (iii) patches of deposited loam (*rel*) near the river beds and (iv) accumulated deposits (*par*) at the foot of limestone ridges. The last two soils, and particularly the river deposits, are excellent for agriculture and often yield two crops, even without irrigation. Most of the loam patches lie in Siwana tehsil; unfortunately, the total area of such soil is very small.

The chief crops are *bajra*, *moong*, *moth*, *til* and *cotton*, which are grown in all but the most arid areas. Wheat is sown on the banks of the Luni and sometimes in the beds of marshes, but is rare elsewhere. Barley is sometimes grown on the banks of the Luni following floods. Water-melons and the *singhara* nut grow in profusion in the bed of the Luni and another gourd, called *tumbu* is common all over, specially in the sandy areas.

Writing of the crops of Mallani, Major C. K. M. Walter, Political Agent in Marwar, wrote thus in 1877:-

"The various kinds of crops grown in Mallani are *bajra*, *moong*, *moth*, *guwar*, *til* and *cotton*; these are sown as soon as the monsoon sets in and are reaped, *bajri* 70 days, *cotton* 90 and the rest 60 to 65 days after sowing. Wheat crops are grown on the banks of the Luni but are very rare in other parts of Mallani. When the rainfall is favourable, however, this cereal is cultivated in marshy lands in the Setrao and Chohtan districts. Barley and sesamum are rarely seen and gram never". Thus the position has remained largely unchanged for the better part of a century.

There are two main crop seasons, the *khari* or, as it is usually called here, *sawnu* (*siyalu*) and the *rabi* or *unalu*. The sowing of the *sawnu* (autumn) crops begins with the first rains, usually about the middle of July, and in normal seasons extends up to the end of August, the crops being reaped between September and November. The *unalu* (spring) crops are usually sown in October and November, and are harvested in April and May.

The autumn crops, which are by far the most important and the mainstay of the people, are dependent for their early growth on

the rain during July and the first half of August and for their full maturity on showers in September. A little rain early in October is also very beneficial. In this district, however, the September rains are generally light and irregular and cease altogether before the end of that month, and the hot sun makes "the sky as of brass and the earth as of iron", as the proverb runs.

It has been roughly estimated that the proportion of the *khari* to the *rabi* output is 11:5. Except where irrigated, the *rabi* crops thrive or fail according to whether adequate cyclonic rain falls in winter. The principal autumn crops are *bajra*, *jowar*, *til*, *moth*, *moong* and the chief cold weather crop is wheat.

### Major Crops

*Bajra*.—*Bajra* or spiked millet is the staple food of the people, and is more extensively sown than any other crop. It is sown with the first fall of sufficient rain in late June or early July and takes from 70 to 90 days to ripen. *Bajra* compares very favourably with *jowar* as a food but the stalks, called *kharia*, are saltish and are consequently sparingly used as fodder but are suitable for thatching huts. The crop is sometimes grown alone, but more commonly mixed with *moth* or *moong*. It is seldom watered or manured. It does best when the climate is moderately dry. *Bajra* never yields as large a crop as *jowar* and it requires more ploughing and weeding than that grain. When the crop is four or five inches high the weeds and grass are cleared. Timely rainfall in August is beneficial and the crop is ready for harvest by the end of September or early in October. Threshing is done only after the *rabi* sowing, till which time the crop is stacked in heaps covered with grass for protection.

The parched ears of *bajra* are called *pinkh* or *sars* and are eaten. *Bajra* is chiefly used as a bread grain and its *khich* is also highly relished mixed with *moong*.

In 1960-61, *bajra* accounted for 79.3 per cent of the total cultivated area, the actual area under the cereal being 25,70,898 acres. It is grown throughout the district, though in 1960-61 about half the area under the crop was in Barmer tehsil alone (13,53,238 acres). Chohtan tehsil was next with 5,54,830 acres, followed by Pachpadra and Shiv with 2,90,753 and 2,25,507 acres, respectively. Siwana had 1,46,570 acres under *bajra*.

*Jowar*.—*Jowar* comes next to *bajra* and wheat in importance, according to 1960-61 figures, a total of 18,485 acres being devoted to

its cultivation in that year. *Jowar* needs rather more rain than *bajra* and is, therefore, grown extensively in the eastern tehsils. It is generally sown after the monsoon has set in properly, i.e., after the middle of July, and is ready for harvest in late October or November. In some areas, where irrigation is possible, *jowar* is sown early in summer for fodder purposes and this crop is ready at the end of May or in early June.

Some *jowar* is normally grown throughout the district, but the drier tehsils of the Shiv and Chohtan contributed no land towards the cultivation of *jowar* in 1960-61. Pachpadra was the largest contributor with 15,103 acres in that year. The crop occupied 3,317 acres in Siwana and 65 acres in Barmer tehsil. The average yield is merely 2 maunds per acre. When the crop is ripe, the heads are cut off and the stalks (*karab*) are carefully stacked and subsequently given to cattle; if, owing to insufficient rain, the crop is not thriving the stalks are often cut while green and stored for fodder; this is called *chipt* and fetches a higher price than *karab*.

*Wheat*.—The main *rabi* crop, in 1960-61 wheat was grown over an area of 20,584 acres, a total exceeded only by the *kharif* crop of *bajra*. Siwana tehsil, where most of the wells are situated, had 10,610 acres under wheat, followed by Pachpadra (5,838 acres), Barmer (3,277 acres) and Shiv (739 acres). Chohtan had only 120 acres under wheat.

The wheat crop is of two kinds—*piwal* and *sewaj*. The former is grown on land near wells and is irrigated. If irrigated by saline water, it is called *kharchia* and if by sweet water *mithania*; the first variety is considered superior.

The ground is prepared for wheat during the rainy season by repeated ploughings. Sowing begins about the middle of October and seed is applied at the rate of 60 to 100 lbs. per acre. The crop requires three to seven waterings depending on local conditions. Inter-culture is necessary in January and the crop is harvested between April 10 and May 15.

As the crop is usually very dry when harvested, it can be threshed almost at once. The roasted green ears, called *holas*, are much relished, while the straw, known as *khalla*, is used as fodder.

The second of the two kinds of wheat, namely *sewaj*, is grown on flooded land near the rivers known as *rel* or *relani*. The ground

is prepared as in the case of *pival* and when the rains cease the fields are ploughed to absorb the water. There is no irrigation as such. The wheat produced on such land is called *katha* and is inferior to, and consequently cheaper than, that produced by well irrigation.

*Maize*.—As maize requires a fair amount of water, it is cultivated in small patches only, the total acreage in 1960-61 being 65. It was sown in Siwana (58 acres) and Pachpadra (7 acres). The crop completely fails in years of low rainfall. Sowing begins after the monsoon has set in. Inter-culture is needed between the end of August and the middle of September and harvesting is done in October or early November.

*Barley*.—The barley crop, like wheat, requires careful tillage and soil preparation. It is grown only on irrigated land in normal years but in seasons, when the Luni has been in spate, it is grown on flooded land near the river. The sowing period is from October 20 to December 15 and inter-culture is required in January. The harvesting period is from March 25 to April 15. Siwana and Pachpadra were the only principal barley-growing tehsils in 1960-61, though in previous years it had been grown in small areas of Barmer tehsil as well. Of the total area of 791 acres devoted to the cultivation of barley in 1960-61, Siwana had 552 acres, Pachpadra 225 and Barmer only 14 acres.

#### Pulses

Gram is grown as a rabi crop in Siwana and Pachpadra tehsils generally and that too, over small areas. In 1960-61, it occupied a total area of 119 acres, all of which lay in Pachpadra.

*Tur* was sown only once (in 1959-60) during the period 1957-61 in Pachpadra over a small area of 6 acres. It was not sown at all in the preceding four years nor in 1960-61. Some pulses such as *moth* and *moong* and *chaula* are also sown as *kharif* crops, the total area occupied by these pulses in 1960-61 being 84,408 acres. The separate acreages were *moth*, (76,881) *moong* (7,526) and *chaula* (1).

#### Oilseeds

Though a number of oilseeds are grown in isolated patches, sesamum is the only one which is widely cultivated. In 1960-61, the area of  $33,544\frac{1}{4}$  acres under sesamum accounted for approximately 99 per cent of the total area under oilseeds. It was cultivated in all the tehsils, though Shiv and Chohtan contributed only 8 and 101 acres, respectively. The area under sesamum in other tehsils in 1960-61 was: Siwana ( $16,470\frac{1}{4}$ ), Pachpadra (16,401) and

Barmer (564). Soil preparation for sesamum starts immediately after the first regular monsoon showers and the sowing period extends up to the end of August. Inter-culture is usually done in October and the harvesting season is in November.

Among other oilseeds, castor is grown in Siwana and Pachpadra tehsils mainly, though in 1960-61 Barmer also had 10 acres devoted to its cultivation. In that year, Siwana had  $214\frac{1}{2}$  acres and Pachpadra 2 (63 acres in 1959-60) acres under the plant, making a total of  $226\frac{1}{2}$  acres for the district.

Groundnut occupied an area of 7 acres in 1960-61, being sown in Siwana (4 acres) and Pachpadra (3 acres) only. In earlier years, it was either not sown at all or sown in very small quantities, except in 1959-60, when 187 acres were devoted to its cultivation. In 1955-56, in the whole of the district there were only two acres in Siwana tehsil devoted to groundnut cultivation and in 1956-57 and 1957-58 it was not sown at all. In 1958-59, it was sown in Siwana tehsil only on an area of 4 acres. The soil preparation for groundnut starts soon after the first showers and the sowing period ends in mid-August. The crop is ready by the middle of October.

In 1960-61, rape and mustard together covered an area of  $86\frac{1}{4}$  acres, some being sown in all tehsils, except Chohtan and Shiv. Pachpadra tehsil contributed 46 acres, followed by Siwana (39) and Barmer tehsil ( $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres). Rape and mustard belong to the *rabi* group of crops. The soil is ploughed after the rains and sowing is completed by the middle of November. Inter-culture is carried out from the middle of December to the end of January, and the mustard crop is harvested in the latter half of March. Rape is usually ready in February.

Linseed is not regularly cultivated and in 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 was not sown at all. In 1957-58 and 1956-57 only one acre was sown in Siwana tehsil. In 1955-56, however, the area under linseed was 15 acres, all in Siwana.

An area of 42 acres (32 in Barmer and 10 in Pachpadra) was under other oilseeds in 1959-60. Such area in 1960-61 has not been specified.

Only cotton and sesamum among the cash crops are regularly cultivated. Cotton is grown in three tehsils, viz., Barmer,

Siwana and Pachpadra, Siwana being the main grower. In 1960-61, Siwana had 479 acres under cotton, while Barmer and Pachpadra had only 53 and 48 acres, respectively. No other fibre crop was raised in 1960-61.

*Mesta* was cultivated in 1957-58 and 1959-60 on 3 and 7 acres, respectively. Tobacco occupied 4 acres in 1959-60 and  $9\frac{1}{4}$  acres in 1960-61 and in the previous four years was not cultivated.

#### Condiments and Spices

Condiments and spices also are rarely grown, though the cultivation of chillies is fairly regular in the tehsils of Barmer, Siwana and Pachpadra. In 1960-61, a total of 181 acres was under chillies, 134 acres in Siwana, 27 in Pachpadra, 17 in Barmer and 3 in Shiv. An area of  $715\frac{1}{2}$  acres was under other condiments in 1960-61, the break-up for individual commodities being *dhaniya* or coriander seed (1 acre), *zeera* or cummin seed (629 acres), *lasan* or garlic ( $10\frac{1}{4}$  acres) and *methi-alsiya* ( $75\frac{1}{4}$  acres).

#### Fruits and Vegetables

Because of the arid nature of the area, fruit gardens are practically non-existent as they require a plentiful supply of water. In 1960-61, only 18 acres were devoted to the growing of fruit. Where water is available, some vegetables such as potatoes, sweet potatoes and onions are grown. In 1960-61, however, these vegetables occupied only  $9\frac{1}{4}$ , 11 and 376 acres, respectively. Other *rabi* season vegetables were grown on 134 acres in 1960-61 and *kharif* vegetables on 26 acres. Thus, fruit, and vegetables combined accounted for an area of only  $574\frac{1}{4}$  acres in 1960-61.

#### Agricultural Production

In 1959-60, which was a normal year, the average yield per acre for *bajra*, the principal crop, was about 2.6 maunds per acre. The total production of *bajra* in that year was 2,11,374 tons—about 21 per cent of the total production of *bajra* in Rajasthan as a whole. Wheat production was 20,736 tons (average 10.7 maunds per acre) or roughly 2 per cent of the total wheat production in the State. The production of other important crops in 1959-60 was as follows:—

*Jowar* 1,334 tons, Barley 279 tons, Maize 8 tons, Rape and Mustard 24 tons, Gram 638 tons, Sesamum 1,672 tons, Kharif pulses 7,836 tons, Potato 10 tons and Groundnut 27 tons.

The production figures for 1960-61 were as follows:—

						(Tons)
Bajra .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,56,965½
Wheat .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4,970
Jowar .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,320½
Barley .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,186½
Maize .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	8
Rape and Mustard .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	52
Gram .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,628
Sesamum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,197½
Kharif pulses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	16,159½
Potatoes .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	8½
Ground nut .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	½

### Crop pattern

The crop pattern has remained largely unchanged over the years. The district does not grow sufficient grain to feed the increasing population and, therefore, the emphasis must remain overwhelmingly on food crops. There is also the important fact that crops like cotton, tobacco and other cash crops, spices, fruit and vegetables all require irrigation, which is lacking in this area.

Thus, there is no instance in recent years of a substantial increase in the area under a cash crop. In fact, only two such crops—cotton and sesamum have regular cultivation on a noticeable scale. As regards the introduction of new crops, the District Agriculture Officer is trying to introduce cummin seed (*zeera*), for which the soil and climatic conditions in the district are favourable.

The following statement shows the areas under various Crops in Barmer district during the period 1955-61.

Areas under crops

Year	Tehsil	(Acres)								
		Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Wheat	Barley	Other cereals	Gram	Other Pulses	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1955-56	Barmer	62,165	4,90,400	180	3,280	—	—	60	27,000	
	Siwana	4,092	1,05,709	75½	12,389	1,187	—	3,275	13,890	
	Pachpadra	26,933	2,78,046	206	11,426	168	—	1,134	18,983	
	Shiv	3,627	2,52,654	—	13,604	—	—	—	19,852	
	Chohtan	11,650	4,65,346	—	—	—	—	—	21,118	
TOTAL		1,08,467	15,98,154	461½	40,099	1,345	—	4,469	1,00,843	
1958-59	Barmer	92½	11,20,121	8	3,421	12	—	—	42,056	
	Siwana	3,207½	1,09,887½	112	11,054	571	3,944	1,124	28,021	
	Pachpadra	7,261½	2,33,076	43	5,458	201	107	90	43,371½	
	Shiv	14	2,03,134	—	170½	—	—	4	5	
	Chohtan	—	4,06,203½	—	210	—	—	—	11,857½	
TOTAL		10,575½	21,32,422	163	20,922½	784	4,051	1,218	1,25,311	
1960-61	Barmer	65	13,53,238	—	3,277	14	—	—	23,786	
	Siwana	3,317	1,46,570	58	10,610	552	—	—	17,440	
	Pachpadra	15,103	2,00,753	7	5,838	225	3	119	41,274	
	Shiv	—	2,25,507	—	739	—	—	—	2	
	Chohtan	—	5,54,830	—	120	—	—	—	1,906	
TOTAL		18,485	25,70,898	65	20,564	791	3	119	84,408	



Year	Tehsil	Groundnut	Custor	Sesamum	Rape & Mustard	Other oilseeds	Cotton	Other cash crops	Chillies	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1955-56	Barmer	—	—	90,400	40	—	600	—	190	10
	Siwana	2	37½	12,369	63	15	339	4	37	31
	Pachpadra	—	9	43,190	6	—	1,163	1	257	17
	Shiv	—	—	60,100	11	—	800	—	1	—
	Cholhan	—	—	70,800	—	—	860	—	—	—
	TOTAL ..	2	46½	2,76,925	120	15	3,762	5	485	58
1958-59	Barmer	—	9	731	4½	4½	21	—	12	37
	Siwana	4	573	16,206	90	14	514	—	47	462
	Pachpadra	—	30	12,048	21	—	36	—	16	352
	Shiv	—	—	7	29½	13½	—	—	—	—
	Cholhan	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL ..	4	612	29,031	145	32	571	—	75	851
1960-61	Barmer	—	10	504	1½	—	53	(Tobacco)	17	80½
	Siwana	4	214½	16,470½	39	—	479	1½	13½	376
	Pachpadra	3	2	16,401	46	—	48	8	27	239
	Shiv	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	3	—
	Cholhan	—	—	101	—	—	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL ..	7	226½	33,544½	86½	—	580	9½	181	715½

## Fruits and Vegetables

(Acres)

Year	Pome fruit	Potato	Sweet potato	Onion	Others	Total
1955-56	—	9	—	154	135	298
1958-59	—	2	—	25	445½	472½
1960-61	18 (Water melons)	94	11	376	160	574½

## Agricultural Operations

Agricultural operations are still carried out under the influence of certain astrological conditions, particular attention being paid to the 27 *nakshatras* and the occurrence of certain auspicious conjunctions.

*Ploughing.* On *Akhatiji*, third day of the bright half of *Vaishakh* (May), the farmer starts his operations by harrowing his field twice, first length-wise and then across. When new land is brought into use, bushes and shrubs on it are cut and either burnt on the spot in order to fertilize the soil or used as fences. The ground is then roughly levelled. This clearing process is called *sar*.

The actual ploughing operations usually begin with the first fall of sufficient rain, or even earlier in the case of clay soils. The ground is ploughed once, twice or three times according to the stiffness of the soil, these three ploughing being respectively called *phar*, *chark* and *bijari*. In some cases four or five ploughings are necessary. For the *rabi* crops, four to eight ploughings are done in September or October. Either a camel or a pair of bullocks is yoked to each plough, though sometimes donkeys and buffaloes are also used. On an average, the ordinary plough turns over half an acre of land in a day.

*Manuring.*—The dung of sheep and goats and village refuse are used as manure. Cow dung is also used by some farmers, but as it is also a much used source of fuel, little is available for manurial purpose. Herders of sheep, goats and camels are often paid in kind or cash to graze their animals on fallow fields.

*Sowing.*—The process of sowing is called *bijari*. The seed is, sometimes scattered broadcast, especially in the case of *til*, or sown in lines by means of a bamboo drill attached to the plough. The

*kharif* sowing usually begins under *Ardra nakshatra* after one or two showers. Jowar and other *Kharif* crops are sown with the *nai*. Farmers ordinarily wait for the auspicious time (*mahurat*) for sowing, which is fixed by the village priest or astrologer.

When the sowing of the *kharif* crop has been completed, the preparation of fields reserved for the *rabi* crops is started. Ploughing is carried out when there is a break in the rains to eradicate weeds and open out the soil to absorb moisture. In the month of *Asoj* or *Kartik* ploughing is done for the last time and then the seeds are sown. Wheat is generally sown with the *nai* under the *Swati nakshatra* and gram in *Ilasta*. If the monsoon has been below normal and no rain falls between October and the beginning of November, the sowing of the *rabi* crops may be abandoned in the non-irrigated areas. Generally, seed from the previous year's crop is used, the local belief being that seeds lose their germinating value, if kept for a very long period.

*Weeding*.—The *rabi* crops require no weeding, but 15 days after the *kharif* crops have been sown and the seedlings are about 8 inches high, a harrow is passed between the rows of young plants to remove weeds. Two weeks later the process is repeated and, about a week after this, if the soil is workable, the plants are thinned by hand; for *jowar* and *bajra* the distance plants ranges from 12 to 18 inches. A week or two after the thinning has been completed the field is weeded by hand (*nindal*).

*Protection*.—From the time the grain commences to form, the crop has to be protected from the ravages of birds, cattle, deer and wild pig. Scare-crows are erected and usually a woman or a boy sits on a scaffold (*dagla*) raised 10 to 12 feet above the ground, from which point of vantage stones can be hurled from a sling (*gophan*). Other means used to scare away birds and animals are a whip made from the fibre of *sann*, called *phatakhs*, or beating an empty kerosene tin.

*Harvesting*.—The reaping (*duchni* or *laoni*) is done by men called *denagiya*s, meaning daily wage workers, or *barias* at the rate of about a *biga* a day per head. Stalks bearing ears such as *bajra*, wheat and barley are cut with a sickle (*dumli*) while those bearing pods, such as gram, are up-rooted. Pulses are mostly cut as whole

plants. Vegetables are picked by hand and leafy ones are uprooted. Root crops like potatoes and groundnuts are harvested by digging with spade. They are placed by the reaper in a bag (*jholi*), worn on the body and when the bag is full the produce is deposited at a pre-arranged spot, whence it is carried by cart or camel to the threshing floor.

*Threshing*.—The *khals* or threshing floor is usually located in the vicinity of the village site. The ground is made hard and even by watering and ramming with a wooden mallet, after which a coating of cow-dung is applied. The process of threshing is called *gaita*. An upright post (*mod*), about 6 ft. high, is fixed in the centre and a thick wall of brambles is built around.

The stalks are strewn over the floor around the post and trampled by two or four bullocks yoked abreast to the post. This operation is called *gahna*.

*Winnowing*.—The next process is that of winnowing (*upanna*). After the grain has been released, it is collected in a heap and then winnowed. Three persons are required for the process; one stands on a stool (*tarpava*) about 3 ft. high; the second hands him the baskets of grain and chaff which are slowly emptied into the wind and the third person separates the fallen grain from the chaff with the aid of a broom. The chaff (*bhusa*) is used as fodder for cattle. The cultivators are in the habit of keeping a *dantli* (sickle) or a plough-share (*kusva*) buried in the grain in order to ward off evil spirits.

### Implements

The field implements used by the agriculturists are largely of the old type. The main implements are ploughs, harrows, levellers, clod-crushers, seed-drills and hoes.

The clod-crusher (*kuri* or *savar*) is a heavy log dragged over the fields by bullocks to level the ground and gather together some of the weeds. The indigenous plough, leveller, etc., are also made of wood, the seed-drill being of bamboo.

Apart from these bullock-drawn implements, there are several hand tools used in agricultural operations. The main tools are the *kurhad* (axe), *kuladi* (pick-axe), *phavada* (spade), *khurpi* (weeding hoe), *dantli* (sickle), *korata* (bill-hook), *panar* (crowbar) and the *dantali* (rake with wooden teeth). These are usually made by the village carpenter or iron smith.

The principal harvesting tool is the *vila* (sickle). The *kuladi* (pick-axe) is used for harvesting root crops. The *phawada* (spade) is used in repairing and making bunds and water channels and filling the field with soil and manure. The *panar* (crow-bar) either wooden or iron toothed, is used for collecting and removing waste materials from the fields. Each working member of a cultivator's family possesses a *khurpi* and a *dantali*. The *kovata* and the *kurhad* are used for cutting shrubs and trees, respectively. With the *panar* (crow-bar) clods and stones are lifted and holes dug.

Attempts are being made to introduce improved types of implements, but progress has been slow as such implements are in short supply. Thus, in 1960-61, there were only 1,085 iron ploughs in the district as against 1,16,268 wooden ploughs.

Large-scale cultivation is still very rare. Such cultivation is only possible through mechanized farming and there were only 33 tractors in the district in 1960-61.

The Agriculture Department is trying to popularize the use of iron persian wheels, iron *charas* (buckets) as well as implements such as the soil-turning plough, bund-former and *triphali*. The last two are already in evidence and number about 100 and 50, respectively. The following table shows the main agricultural implements in use in the district during the period 1956-61:—

Implements					1955-56	1959-60	1960-61
1. Wooden Ploughs	..	..	..	..	99,438	1,16,566	1,16,268
2. Iron Ploughs	..	..	..	..	336	1,203	1,085
3. Carts	..	..	..	..	11,679	13,763	14,358
4. Cane Crushers	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5. Oil Engines	..	..	..	..	10	29	70
6. Electric Pumps	..	..	..	..	—	—	2
7. Tractors	..	..	..	..	9	19	33
8. Ghanis (more than 5 seers)			..	..	103	153	216
9. Ghanis (less than 5 seers)			..	..	61	64	Not available

The following numbers of improved agricultural implements were distributed during 1960-61:—

Ploughs	183
Chaff cutters	52
Seed drills	31
Bund formers	59
Mote wheels	83
Iron charas	246
Bakkhar (leveller)	16
Hand Hoes	3

### Seeds

In order to improve yields, the district agricultural authorities are distributing improved types of seed for various crops. As regards wheat, the RS 31-1 variety has been tried with success and there is a proposal to introduce the RS 9-11 variety developed at the Durgapura farm at Jaipur. For *bajra* selected seeds of the local Mallani variety are being distributed and for castor the H 6 quality. The Department is also supplying improved varieties of cotton and groundnut seeds, the latter having been obtained from Sawai Madhopur. Thus for most of the major crops improved varieties of seeds are being popularised; unfortunately, supplies are still very short. During 1959-60, the Department was able to distribute the following quantities of seeds: wheat 5,229½ maunds, *bajra* 4,694 maunds; *jowar* 150 maunds and *gwar* 900 maunds. Vegetable seeds are being distributed through the panchayat samities. The Department maintains a Seed Multiplication Farm at Samdari. During 1960-61, the following quantities were distributed: wheat (RS 31-1, NP 718, C 591) 4,282½ maunds, *bajra* 3879 maunds, *gwar* 130 maunds, *zeera* 7 maunds, castor 1 maund, cotton 10 maunds, groundnut 2¼ maunds and vegetable seeds 1,053 lbs.

### Rotation of Crops

Though the benefits of crop rotation are very well known to the cultivator, it is practised in a rather haphazard manner. One common method in the *kharif* sown areas is to plant *bajra* for two years, leave the land fallow for a year, then sow *jowar* or *til* and finally revert to *bajra* again.

Rotation is most common on land suitable for both *rabi* and *kharif* crops. Such fields generally bear a *kharif* crop in one year and a *rabi* crop the next year, provided that either of the two crops

is wholly or partially a pulse; a pulse crop is invariably grown at least once in two years.

In rich fields capable of growing *rabi* crops, *jowar* is usually alternated with wheat or gram. In poorer fields, cotton takes the place of *jowar*. Sometimes, *jowar* is sown in the first year, wheat or gram the second year, and cotton, or another pulse in the third year. *Tilli* and *rameli* or *ram til* are grown to improve the fertility of the soil. Similarly, when there are good winter showers, a gram crop is grown in order to obtain a good crop of cotton the next year. The *khar* from the gram stalk, it is believed, increases the fertility of the field.

### Manures and Fertilisers

Apart from the traditional practice of leaving a field fallow occasionally to enable it to recover from the strain of crop-bearing, manure is added to enrich the soil in irrigated areas and in fields near the villages. However, even now the greater part of the land under cultivation receives manure only as a result of animals grazing on it.

The district agriculture authorities are trying to popularise the use of manures and in 1959-60, distributed 34 tons of town compost and 1,177 tons of village compost. Also 610 compost pits were dug. Efforts are being made through the development blocks to induce the villagers to give up the use of cow-dung as fuel. The Municipal Committee at Balotra is arranging for the use of town compost as manure. Artificial fertilisers are also in use but at present in small quantities. The amounts distributed through the Department in 1959-60 and 1960-61 were as follows:

	1959-60	1960-61
1. Ammonium Sulphate	40 tons, 10 cwt.	39.4 tons
2. Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	6 tons, 15 cwt.	5.3 tons
3. Super-phosphate	10 tons, 1 cwt.	6.7 tons
4. Urea	—	2.2 tons

### Agricultural pests and diseases

The most destructive crop pest is the *phadka* (*Hieroglyphus nigrorepletus*). It is a hopper, resembling the locust and measuring from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Though present throughout the year, it intensifies its activities during the monsoon, attacking the *kharif* crops of

maize, *bajra*, jowar and pulses. The main insecticides used against it are benzene hexachloride, aldrin and calcine arsenate. To eradicate destruction by other insects, various insecticides such as aldrin, D.D. T., agrosan and bordo mixture, zinc phosphide and sulphur dust are used. Among other pests, some destruction of crops is caused by the desert jerboa rat, which digs up the fields and makes granaries against emergency. Occasionally, a large variety of brown rat, the antelope rat, over runs the area and destroys the crops when green by eating the roots and when in ear devouring the heads of grain. This pest then disappears as quickly as it comes.

Locust damage used to be considerable till about a decade back, but the concerted efforts of the anti-locust organisation of the Government of India and international co-operation aided by specialised agencies of the United Nations have been able to control the menace to a certain extent and it has been possible to reduce the extent of the damage thus caused. The anti-locust organisation comprises two sections, known as the Intelligence and the Technical Wings. The Intelligence Wing patrols the susceptible areas and provides information on locust breeding, visits of swarms from outside and their course, etc; the Technical Wing goes into action on the strength of this information.

The important crop diseases are the green ear disease of *bajra*, powdery mildew, rest smut.

### DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The District Agriculture Office, in conjunction with the community development officials and the panchayat samities, tries to improve crop production by suggesting better methods of cultivation through actual demonstrations, supplying better seeds and fertilisers and taking steps to eradicate crop diseases and pests. A sum of Rs. 13,500 for the development of a local manurial reserve and distribution of fertilisers and another sum of Rs. 1,63,800 under the seed scheme had been spent up to 1959-60 as part of the second Five Year Plan. Plan expenditure on minor irrigation works during the same period came to Rs. 2,46,250.

The departmental activities also extend to land improvement and distribution of loans. On the occasion of the Tilwara fair, film shows and village leader camps are organised.

At present, the Department is running only one Seed Multiplication Farm at Sandari. This farm, which covers an area of 100 acres, was established in 1958-59. It has its own tractor and pumping set.



Taccavi loans are distributed regularly to help agriculturists improve their farms and also during lean years to relieve distress. The following amounts were distributed during 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61:—

				(Rupees)	
				1958-59	1959-60
				1960-61	
Wells	..	..	41,500	10,000	59,650
Pumping sets	..	..	1,05,250	3,000	2,500
Tractor	..	..	8,000	15,000	—
Persian Wheels	..	..	15,000	15,000	1,000

### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

#### Area under fodder crops

The area under fodder crops in 1960-61 was 5,07,773 acres, i.e., 15.64 per cent of the total cultivated area of the district. The following table shows the area under fodder crops since 1955-56:—

				(Acres)
1955-56	..	..	..	6,75,432
1956-57	..	..	..	4,60,868
1957-58	..	..	..	4,95,979
1958-59	..	..	..	5,02,143½
1959-60	..	..	..	6,62,812½
1960-61	..	..	..	5,07,773

In years of sufficient rain, which are few and far between, the district is self-sufficient in regard to fodder, but generally herders migrate eastwards during the summer, returning with the first monsoon showers. Almost every year some parts of the district are declared famine areas and the government opens fodder depots where sale is made at subsidised rates. The principal fodder crops are the *bhurut* (*cenchrus catharticus*) and *siwan* (*panicum frumentaceum*).

#### Cattle

As conditions in the desert are not conducive to agriculture, a large section of the agricultural population depends on herds of cattle and sheep for subsistence. The cattle of Mallani are famed for their size and good appearance and are reared in such numbers that there is a constant supply available for export to neighbouring districts and the States of Gujerat and Madhya Pradesh. Generally,

the herds are not housed but are allowed to roam over the vast uncultivated tracts where, in normal years, they obtain sufficient nourishment from wild grasses. As the summer approaches, however, and the pastures are exhausted, the herders migrate in search of temporary feeding-grounds.

Some of the bulls are very large and have massive horns and humps. When well taken care of and stall-fed, the milch cows give from five to ten seers of milk. In 1960-61 there were more than 5,30,146 cattle in the district.

Buffaloes are largely confined to the less dry tehsils of Siwana, Pachpadra and parts of Barmer. In 1960-61 they totalled 26,532 or only about 5 per cent of the total number of cattle.

### Camels

The best riding camels in the whole of Marwar come from Shiv and are known as Rama Thalia; they are said to be able to cover 80 to 100 miles in a night without difficulty. The Barmer area also has good riding camels but they are inferior to the Rama Thalia breed. Ordinary camels are used for draught purposes. The district has nearly 72,824 camels (1960-61) and large numbers are bought and sold at the annual Tilwara fair.

### Sheep and Goats

Sheep are extremely important to the economy. In 1960-61, the district had 6,15,773 sheep. The number of sheep per square mile is about 63.56 and the number of sheep and human beings are almost equal in the district. The important breeds are the Jaisalmeri and the Marwari.

The Jaisalmeri breed is heavily built. The face is black or brown. The long nose, ears and tail gives this sheep an impressive appearance. The Marwari breed is more stockily built. It is a black-faced sheep with medium or short ears and is a hardy animal.

The Marwari ewes weigh between 50 and 65 lbs. while rams of the same species tip the scale anywhere between 60 and 80 lbs. The Jaisalmeri ram weighs between 70 and 100 lbs. and the ewe between 65 and 80 lbs.

There has been no attempt to introduce exotic breeds like the Merino, because such animals are unlikely to survive the rigours of the climate and the lack of lush grass.

Sheep-breeding and allied industries provide employment to a large number of people. The average wool yield is 10 to 14 *chhataks* for the Jaisalmeri breed and 8 to 12 *chhataks* for the Marwari breed. The Jaisalmeri breed takes four to seven clippings every year while the Marwari breed takes only two to four. Both breeds produce medium and coarse wool, suitable for carpets.

There is a Superintendent for Sheep and Wool Development stationed at Barmer. A sheep and wool Extension Officer is posted at Shiv and Stock Assistants at Barmer, Balotra, Siwana and Pachpadra. The Stock Assistants are given a supply of rams for controlled breeding over 5,000 sheep within a radius of 10 miles from their headquarters. The four centres together control a total of 314 key flocks, the distribution being as follows:—

Balotra	..	..	..	103 flocks
Siwana	..	..	..	77 "
Pachpadra	..	..	..	102 "
Barmer	..	..	..	32 "

Like sheep, goats also are prolific and number 8,93,544 about half as much again as the human population. Nearly half the goat population of the district is in Barmer tehsil alone. Goats are kept as domestic animals by almost every rural family. Goat hair is used as raw material in the *jatpatti* industry.

### Horses

Among domestic animals, the horse has always stood first with Rajputs. In this district, in certain areas the Thakurs have long bred horses, which are noted for their hardiness and ease of pace. They grow to a good height and, though light-boned, can carry heavy weights and go long distances without food and water. About 1,000 horses are brought for sale from this and other parts every year to the Tilwara fair. The total number of horses in the district exceeds 3,000.

### Others

Other domestic animals include that useful beast of burden, the donkey, which numbered 24,017 in 1960-61. Mules are rarely seen, their number being only 18 and pigs are generally not kept. Poultry, too, are rare and numbered only 1,737 in 1960-61.

### Improvement Measures

There are no model government farms in the district for cattle, sheep or poultry breeding but small experimental units started in the development blocks are now under the control of the panchayat samities.

Sheep improvement measures have already been described. There are also schemes aimed at improving the quality of cattle through the use of bulls of the Kankrej and Tharparkar breeds in key village units.

Notable among private cattle farms is one started by Rawal Gulab Singh of Sindhari in S. 1990 (1933 A.D.). It is primarily a cattle-breeding farm, though other animals are also kept. In 1956, there were 500 animals on the farm of which 400 were of pure Kankrej breed, while the others were mixed Kankrej and Gir stock. The farm has steadily been expanded and at the end of 1960-61 had 1,000 Kankrej cattle, 150 Murrah buffaloes, 50 Mallani mares and three Mallani horses. Situated at the village of Goena nine miles from Sindhari, the farm produces about 50 breeding bulls every year. Most are bought by the Government or the panchayat samities and fetch an average price of Rs. 800/-.

Other private breeding centres, though less important, are a poultry farm at Jasol, owned by a co-operative society and donkey breeding farms in the Gura Mallani and Sindhari panchayat samiti areas.

Under a camel improvement scheme, owners of selected camels are given a subsidy of Rs. 25 per month till the animals attain the age of six years. They are then either bought by the Government for their own schemes or sent to farms under private management to be utilized for breeding purposes. Old and unhealthy animals are castrated.

The following table shows the animal husbandry improvement activities in the district during 1959-60:—

S.No.	PANCHAYAT SAMITIES			Total
	Siwana	Balotra	Shiv	
1. Cattle Breeding Units .. ..	8	2	3	13
2. Sheep Breeding Units .. ..	2	—	4	6
3. Poultry Breeding Units .. ..	1	—	—	1

4. Bull Distribution	..	..	9	2	14	25
5. Ram Distribution	..	..	60	5	48	113
6. Poultry Distribution	..	..	100	—	—	100
7. Castrations	..	..	537	240	959	1,745
8. Inoculations	..	..	4,400	1,900	3,035	9,935
9. Animals treated	..	..	36,759	1,097	1,910	39,766

### Cattle Fairs

There is only one major cattle fair in the district, the Tilwara Fair, held annually at Tilwara village in the bed of the Luni river. It is held every year in the month of *Chaitra* between *Krishna Paksha Gyaras* and *Shukla Paksha Gyaras*. In former days it was organised by the Jasol Rawal, who charged small fees from the participants. When the number of participants mounted and the income consequently increased, the Revenue Department of the former Jodhpur State took charge. With the merger of States, this responsibility devolved on the District Animal Husbandry Officer.

As regards the origin of the fair, the story goes that Rawal Mallinathji, who ascended the throne of Mehva in Samwat 1431 (A.D. 1374) was regarded as a *Siddha*, a man who had attained super-human powers. People from far and near congregated to have the *darshan* of the ascetic Rawal. Some of the animals, which brought their masters to the spot caught the eye of prospective buyers. Small transactions thus took place, and commercial importance began to be attached to the occasion. Even after the death of the Rawal (1399 A.D.) people continued to congregate once a year to worship at the temple constructed in his memory.

The first regular fair was held by Mota Raja Udai Singhji in Samwat 1650 (1593 A.D.) and since then has grown in importance. The fair ground is now connected by a railway line, which goes right up to the site.

In 1875, the following livestock was brought to the fair for sale:—

Young cattle	..	..	..	..	16,000
Full-grown cattle	..	..	..	..	15,000
Camels	..	..	..	..	5,000
Horses	..	..	..	..	400

In 1959-60, by way of comparison, the following numbers were brought and sold:—

					Brought	Sold
Cattle	..	..	..	..	45,710	16,533
Buffaloes	..	..	..	..	69	9
Horses	..	..	..	..	1,009	543
Camels	..	..	..	..	12,062	5,781
Donkeys	..	..	..	..	995	742

A comparison of these figures illustrates the growth in importance of the fair. The Animal Husbandry Department derived an income of Rs. 1,40,068.20 on this occasion.

The highest prices quoted at the fair for various animals were as follows:—

					(Rs.)
Bullocks	..	..	..	..	1,400
Camels	..	..	..	..	1,200
Horses	..	..	..	..	1,200
Donkeys	..	..	..	..	105
Buffaloes	..	..	..	..	130

### Livestock Figures

The following table (compiled from Land Records figures) shows the livestock position in the district in 1960-61. Figures for 1956 are also given for purposes of comparison:—

			1956	1960-61	Increase (+) or Decrease(-)
<b>Cattle</b>					
1. Males over 3 years	..	..	88,477	1,11,713	
(a) Breeding	..	..	1,507	1,401	
(b) Working	..	..	86,092	1,06,562	
(c) Others	..	..	878	3,750	
2. Females over 3 years	..	..	2,30,586	2,46,172	
(a) In milk	..	..	95,061	1,26,955	
(b) Others	..	..	1,35,525	1,19,217	
3. Young stock	..	..	1,54,625	1,72,261	
<b>TOTAL CATTLE</b>			<b>4,73,688</b>	<b>5,30,146</b>	<b>+56,458</b>

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Buffaloes</b>				
1. Males over 3 years	.. ..	1,897	2,179	
(a) Breeding ..	.. ..	138	135	
(b) Working ..	.. ..	1,702	1,918	
(c) Others ..	.. ..	57	126	
2. Females over 3 years	.. ..	13,466	12,705	
(a) In milk ..	.. ..	7,381	8,192	
(b) Others ..	.. ..	6,085	4,513	
3. Young Stock ..	.. ..	10,904	11,648	
<b>TOTAL BUFFALOES</b>		26,267	26,532	+265
<i>Sheep</i> ..	.. ..	4,71,074	6,15,773	+1,44,699
<i>Goats</i> ..	.. ..	6,87,994	8,93,544	+2,05,550
<i>Horses</i> ..	.. ..	2,014	3,008	+994
<i>Mules</i> ..	.. ..	19	18	-1
<i>Donkeys</i> ..	.. ..	18,540	24,017	+5,477
<i>Camels</i> ..	.. ..	51,227	72,824	+21,597
<i>Pigs</i> ..	.. ..	3	—	-3
<b>TOTAL ANIMALS</b>		17,30,826	21,65,862	+4,35,036
<i>Poultry</i> ..	.. ..	1,991	1,737	-164

### Animal Diseases

The most common cattle diseases are pleuro-pneumonia or *mota rog* (which accounts for more than 60 per cent of the fatalities), rinderpest (*mata*) and liver fluck; the lesser diseases are the foot and mouth disease, surra, haemorrhagic septicaemia and black quarter. Before the introduction of modern veterinary facilities (and even now in the more remote areas) herders used to apply certain traditional herbal remedies, which were sometimes effective in less serious cases.

Camels are afflicted by two diseases locally called *kalia* and *tibarsa*, respectively. An animal attacked by the former is said to shiver, fall down and expire. The indigenous treatment is to slit the ears and, if no blood issues, the animal is left to die. *Tibarsa* is a sort of remittent fever, lasting sometimes for as long as three years: the patient avoids sitting in the moonlight, seeks shade, and gradually wastes away.

The diseases of the buffalo are *jhenja*, a skin disease disappearing in three days, if promptly attended to and *chiri*, an affection of the lungs, causing the animal to run at the mouth and refuse food and terminating fatally within 12 hours if proper remedies are not applied.

Goats suffer from (i) *galtiya*, a disease of the throat, which can be cured by lancing the affected part where a poisonous fluid has collected, (ii) *burkiya*, when the animal goes round in a circle till it exhausts itself, falls and expires, (iii) *pephuria*, an affection of the lungs and (iv) *mata* (rinderpest), which is very fatal when it appears and usually carries off more than half of the flock.

The sheep is immune from rinderpest but anthrax sometimes assumes epidemic form. Among other sheep diseases mention may be made of sheep-pox, contagious pneumonia and parasitical diseases. Since June 1959, the office of the Sheep and Wool Development Superintendent has been carrying out mass disease preventive measures to protect the flocks, which are of great importance to the economy of the district.

The following table shows the deaths among livestock from some of the more important diseases:—

(Year 1959-60)							
S.No.	Disease					Attacked	Died
1.	Rinderpest	..	..	..	..	2,159	104
2.	Haemorrhagic septicaemia	..	..	..	..	105	4
3.	Black quarter	..	..	..	..	102	36
4.	Foot and mouth disease	..	..	..	..	306	5
5.	Pleuro-pneumonia	..	..	..	..	3,090	745
6.	Liver fluck	..	..	..	..	1,642	251
7.	Sheep-pox	..	..	..	..	10	5
8.	Surra	..	..	..	..	205	12
9.	Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	92	9



### Veterinary Hospitals

There are three veterinary hospitals in the district, situated at Barmer, Balotra and Siwana, respectively. There are also veterinary dispensaries at Shiv, Chohtan and Pachpadra under the panchayat samities. A mobile dispensary visits outlying villages.

During 1959-60, the hospitals and dispensaries treated a total of 32,679 cases. A total of 4,462 castrations were performed.

### NATURAL CALAMITIES

As the district lies in the arid zone and the soil in general is extremely porous, floods are out of the question except on land bordering the Luni and its tributaries in years of exceptionally heavy rain.

For the same reason famine is so much a part of the life of the region that it excites no comment. Every year, in various parts, there occurs an abnormal scarcity of water, grass or grain. It is only when these three scarcities are felt simultaneously that the inhabitants are aware that there is a famine. Thus Col. Tod refers to famine as the "grand natural disease of the desert region".

There is no recorded history of famines in the district, but it is indicated in various sources of information that Mallani was visited by severe famine in the following years: 1485, 1661-62, 1792, 1804, 1812-13, 1833-34, 1837-38, 1848-49, 1850-51, 1853-54, 1868, 1869, 1877-78, 1891-92, 1895-96, 1898-99, 1899-00, 1905-06, 1915-16, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1925-26, 1928-29, 1936-37, 1938-39 and 1940.

Occasionally, the local rulers must have taken steps to relieve distress, but in general the practice appears to have been for the rural population to migrate to Malwa or Gujerat along with their herds, returning when conditions improved. In fact, the migration of herders continues to be an annual feature, increasing in volume in exceptionally bad years.

In recent years, the Famine Relief Department of the State Government has been keeping a careful watch on the situation and, as soon as famine conditions are thought likely to develop in any particular area, ameliorative measures are taken in advance. The usual steps include the opening of fodder depots in the affected areas, sending of water supplies to pre-arranged spots, taccavi loans, remission of land revenue (in the case of agriculturists) and the

starting of small construction schemes to give employment in the affected villages. Funds are also placed at the disposal of the local authorities for relief operations.

Almost every year, some parts of the district are declared famine areas. In 1961 these areas were as follows:—

Tehsil						Number of villages
Barmer	..	..	.	..	..	13
Shiv ..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Siwana	..	..	..	..	..	19
Chohtan	..	..	..	..	..	9
Pachpadra	..	..	..	..	..	91

## CHAPTER V

### INDUSTRIES

#### TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES

The most important traditional industries are cloth printing and dyeing and salt manufacture. Lesser industries are smithy, carpentry, shoe-making, pottery, *jat patti* making and other village crafts, which date back to the time, when the village economy was largely self-sufficient.

The impact of modern civilization has, in the rural areas, not been strong enough to disturb seriously the hereditary professions. The district is still industrially backward because of the lack of materials needed for modern industry, shortage of power and poor communications.

#### POWER

As there are no large rivers, either in the district or in its vicinity, there is no question of hydroelectric power being available. In fact, up to 1954, there was no electricity at all in the district. In that year, a small thermal station of 22 kw. was installed under the control of the Municipal Board, Barmer to provide street lighting and to operate the water works. Later in 1959, a bigger power house of 200 kw. was opened. As a result, it has been possible to provide some electric connections within the town. At present, there are only 451 permanent connections, including 6 power connections to industries.

A small power house was also opened in Balotra in December, 1958. There are 334 connections (332 domestic and 2 power). The total installed capacity of the power house is 95 kw.

There is a proposal to construct a new thermal station at Balotra at a cost of about Rs. 4 lakhs with a capacity of 1,000 kw. The establishment of such a plant would enable a start to be made in industrialization. The two existing power houses are of such low capacity that power is supplied to small industries only in exceptional

cascs. The only industrial units obtaining electric supply at present are some flour mills, the water works at Barmer and Balotra and an engineering concern at Balotra.

## MINING

Near Barmer city and northwards, there are exposures of Eocene geological formations, characteristic of which are such non-metallic mineral deposits as sandstone, clays, bentonite, fuller's earth, gypsum and selenite. Besides these deposits, there is the well-known Pachpadra salt lake about 15 miles north-west of Balotra. The district is deficient in metallic minerals.

*Salt.*—The salt industry at Pachpadra supports the workers of about 25 villages situated in its vicinity. The industry, which was leased by the Jodhpur Darbar to the Government of India in 1879 for an annual sum of Rs. 1.7 lakhs and transferred to the Government of Rajasthan on April 1, 1960 has had a chequered history. Since earliest times, it has been used as a source of salt, but systematic exploitation is said to have begun only about 450 years ago. Under British control, production was strictly regulated and at times ceased altogether, only to be again called upon to supplement supplies from other sources, when market conditions so required.

Major K. D. Erskine, quoting F. Ashton's article "The Salt Industry of Rajputana" (in the Journal of Indian Art and Industry, Vol IX, January, 1901) writes in the Rajputana Gazetteer (1909):

"The salt lake has an area of about ten square miles and, unlike that at Sambhar, is not dependent on rainfall as the brine springs are perennial. According to local tradition, the valley was in former times a marsh, in which salt was deposited during the dry and hot months, and the wild aboriginal tribes collected the commodity for their own consumption and for sale to the inhabitants of the adjoining desert. Some 400 years ago, a Jat called Pancha occupied a small hamlet, which was called after him Panchpadra (subsequently corrupted to Pachbhadra).

A man of the Kharwal caste, named Jhanja, visited the place and, noticing the formation of the salt in the bed of the marsh and recognizing the value of his discovery, settled here and commenced systematic work. He was soon joined by some of his kinsmen, and they at first proceeded on the old lines of collecting such salt as formed spontaneously, but eventually they discovered that brine

springs existed not far from the surface and accordingly dug a shallow pit so as to reach their level. A better kind of salt being thus obtained, they abandoned the old methods and, later on, ascertained that the best crystals formed on the thorny branches of desert shrubs, which were blown by accident into the pits. Experiments were made, and it was found that the shrub known as *moralī* (*Lycium europaeum*) was most suitable, because its twigs did not decay in the brine and its long thorns facilitated the formation of large crystals.

"These alleged discoveries of Jhanja and his brethren form the basis of the methods of manufacture followed at the present time; indeed, no improvement has been found practicable. Pits of an average length of 230 ft. with their banks sloped to an angle of about 45 degrees, are dug in the bed of the source to a depth of 11 ft. until the subterranean springs of brine have been tapped, and these become filled to a depth of about three feet with strong brine, varying in density from 20 degrees Beaume to saturation point. Crystallization is promoted by throwing branches of *moralī* into the pits as soon as the formation of an overset of salt indicates that precipitation has commenced. During the great heat of April, May and June the evaporation of the brine is very rapid, and as this proceeds and salt is precipitated, more brine flows in until the pit is filled with salt to a depth of about 3 ft., which takes place in two years. The salt is then ready for removal and, having been cut out in sections, the crystals are shaken off the thorny branches and stored in oblong heaps on the bank. The out-turn from a pit averages 370 tons every second year, and crop after crop is thus obtained. The salt is one of the best of Upper India and is by many preferred to the Sambhar variety; it is white, clean and of good crystal, and contains from 97 to 98 per cent of chloride of sodium.

"As at Sambhar, so also here, the source is under the protection of the goddess Sakambarī, who is said to have appeared before Jhanja and ordered him to dig out images of herself and her sister from the centre of the lake and build a temple in their honour. This command he faithfully obeyed, but the shrine, as it now stands, has been considerably enlarged since his time; the image of Sakambarī has an inscription dated 1514 A.D."

Erskine adds: "The annual average out-turn during the last 10 years has been 28,130 tons, of which between 45 and 46 per cent is exported to the United Provinces, 27 per cent is consumed in Rajputana and the rest finds its way to Central India and

the Central Provinces. In former times, the whole of the carrying trade was in the hands of the Banjaras but, with the extension of the railway to Balotra and the construction of the branch line to the works, very few of these wanderers visit the place, and practically all the salt is removed by rail."

The salt tract consists of a long oval depression about seven to eight miles long and four to five miles wide and has a very porous soil. The space occupied by the salt works is about six miles long and has an average width of two miles.

There are at present 1,074 pits in the tract, of which 428 are working. The old pits are not of uniform size, varying from  $100 \times 50$  ft. to  $800 \times 100$  ft. and are also not systematically laid. The new pit size, however, has been standardized at  $400 \times 100$  ft. Twenty pits of this size have been constructed since 1947. For the sake of convenience, the area has been divided into two sectors, viz., the Eastern sector and the Western sector. Details are given at the end of this chapter.

Extraction of salt generally begins in October and continues up to the end of June. Peak production is during the hot months of April, May and June. Crops of salt are generally obtained from the same pit at intervals of about 18 months. The salt crust is broken up with iron-tipped poles, raked to the side and spread out for a day or so to dry on a ledge just above the brine level. It is then carried up the bank in baskets and collected in heaps.

The Kharwals still retain hereditary ownership and manufacture rights. Generally, a pit is shared by several persons, but an individual may have shares in many pits at the same time. The Salt Department maintains a register for each pit, wherein is entered its history, ownership, etc.

The investment on a standard size pit is Rs. 10,000/. In a year of normal production (12 lakh maunds) about 1,000 persons are employed during the peak season. An adult male receives a daily wage of Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.75 and women and boys Rs. 1.00 to Rs. 1.25. Work is done on a single-shift basis, usually from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with seasonal variations. There is an hour's recess at mid-day.

*Bentonite*.—Extensive deposits are found in Shiv tehsil and there are also some in Barmer tehsil. The main workings are at the following places: Harwecha, Gival, Akli, Thumbli, Gunga and Shiv (all

in Shiv tehsil) and at Bisala and Sonri in Barmer tehsil. About 3,000 tons of bentonite are extracted annually at present, but production is likely to increase as there is a big demand for this mineral. According to "Mineral Production in India", 1958 (p. 183) issued by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, Government of India, available reserves of bentonite in Barmer are about 11 million tons.

*Selenite*.—The workings at Thob village in tehsil Pachpadra yield about 400 tons per year.

*Gypsum*.—Traces have been found at various places but the main deposits are at Kavas and Utlarlai, which are on the railway close to Barmer. The working of this valuable fertilizer mineral has been directly taken up by the Sindri Fertilizer Factory. According to J. Coggin Brown and A. K. Dey in "India's Mineral Wealth", the gypsum reserves at Kavas are of the order of 2,061,000 tons and those at Utlarlai 7,499,000 tons. The Kavas deposits were the first to be exploited in this area and as they are much smaller than those at Utlarlai they are likely to be exhausted much earlier. The present annual production is in the neighbourhood of 2 lakh tons.

*Fuller's Earth*.—The largest deposits are at the village of Kapurdi, 14 miles north of Barmer town. There are several smaller deposits in Barmer tehsil, especially at Rohli Production at present is nearly 4,000 tons.

*Others*.—Among the lesser mineral deposits are those of glass sand and clay at Botiya (Barmer tehsil); clays are also found at Barmer itself. Some sand-stone is quarried at Barmer and Jasai (Barmer tehsil) but the output is negligible and roofing materials have to be imported into the district.

Mention must also be made of the prospecting for lignite undertaken by the Department of Mines and Geology near Unror in Shiv tehsil. Due to scarcity of water, the drilling operations were suspended, but they are again being resumed and it is expected that considerable deposits will be found as the geological conditions are favourable.

Apart from gypsum and, to a lesser extent, bentonite and selenite, the mineral workings are small. As already stated, gypsum is sent out in large quantities by rail right across the country to the Sindri Factory. A bentonite grinding mill has been established at Barmer, and a mill at Jodhpur manufactures plaster of Paris from selenite quarried in this district.

## LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRY

Because of the lack of power facilities in the district, there are no industries which fall into this class.

## SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY

There are a few small industries in the district deriving power largely from oil engines. Most of them are flour mills, but there are also aerated water and ice cream factories, oil mills and others.

There are in all 47 flour mills at various places in the district, but most are concentrated in the areas covered by the Barmer and Pachpadra panchayat samities, as will be seen from the following table:

<i>Place.</i>	<i>No. of mills.</i>
Barmer	15
Shiv	2
Chohtan	1
Gura Mallani	1
Baitu	1
Sindhari	—
Balotra	17
Siwana	10
Total	<hr/> 47 <hr/>

Two of the flour mills at Barmer also operate cotton carding machines with the grinder.

There are seven ice cream and aerated water manufacturing units, three of these being at Balotra and four at Barmer. These two towns also have the only oil mills to be seen in the entire district (three each). There are two confectionery manufacturing units, one at Barmer and the other at Balotra, the latter having a production capacity of 200 maunds per month as compared with the 40 maunds per month capacity of the Barmer plant.

Barmer has two small printing presses and Balotra one.



As already stated, a bentonite grinding factory has been set up at Barmer. Bentonite is a valuable material used in the clarification of food products and water, foundry moulding, insulation against water seepage, increasing the plasticity of ceramic clays, etc. The factory, established in February, 1958 by a private concern after an investment of nearly Rs. 2 lakhs, has a designed capacity of 15 tons of bentonite powder per day. Present production is only 5 tons per day as double-shift working has not yet been introduced. The average daily wage is Rs. 1.75.

The bentonite powder, which sells at Rs. 100 per ton, is exported mainly to cities like Bombay and Calcutta but some finds its way to foreign markets including Pakistan and Burma.

Like the other small industrial units, the bentonite factory makes use of oil engines as a source of power. The factory employs only 15 workers.

## COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

### Dyeing and Printing

This is the most important cottage industry. In Balotra, before Partition, it was carried on by a Muslim community known as *Chhipas*; their counterparts in Barmer town were *Khatris* Hindus. *Khatris* dyers were also to be found in Samdari, Ramsar, Bisala, Sindhari, Gunga, Shiv, Chohtan and Dhorimana villages.

After partition, of 125 *Chhipa* families in Balotra, about 80 migrated to Pakistan, but this loss was more than counterbalanced by the arrival of more than 200 *Khatris* families from Sind. The new arrivals brought a technique of printing on both sides of the cloth whereas, before 1947, local prints had been confined to one side.

As regards dyeing, the main centre is Balotra, where the chemical composition of the water is particularly favourable. The colours used are mainly red and blue, the former coming out in a vivid shade. For the purpose of *bandhani* (tie-and-dye) cloth manufacture, the services of women in the villages are utilized to bind the cloth in the required manner before dyeing.

In the sphere of printing, Balotra and Barmer are equally important, though all the big units are at the former place. The printing industry suffered a temporary set-back at the time of Partition, when the traditional and sizable market of Sind was lost. Alternative markets have now been obtained and attempts are being made to re-open the Sind market so that the industry is recovering.

The production of cotton in the district being insufficient for local needs, many dyers and printers make use of mill-made cloth in addition to the output of the local hand-loom. The final product varies in price according to the texture of the cloth, but generally the coarser varieties are favoured as most of the consumers in this district and elsewhere belong to the poorer classes. This is one reason why the indigenous industry has been able to hold its own in competition with mill products. Another reason, stated by Erskine and still holding good, is that "the dyers and printers (of this area) still thrive in consequence of their ability to gratify the love of colour, or rather the well designed combination of colours so popular among either sex in Rajputana".

There are three sizable dyeing and printing units operating in the district, all situated at Balotra. One, which has three workshops, has in fact come into being as a result of the amalgamation of three small units on April 1, 1958. A total number of 47 persons were employed in 1960. All work is done by hand and the cloth used is either mill-made or hand-made. Mill cloth is imported from Indore, Bombay, Delhi, Bhiwani, Kanpur, etc., while the hand-loom cloth comes mainly from Bhojpura. The final product has a wide market in Rajasthan, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay and attempts are being made to find markets in West Asia.

The second unit, established in 1951-52, finds a ready sale for its cloth within the district and in the big towns of Rajasthan. The third is only a dyeing works. It uses mill-made cloth imported mainly from Indore, Bombay, Bhilwara and Beawar. The product is sold mainly within the district itself but also finds buyers in the adjacent districts of Jalore and Jodhpur.

Apart from these, the units are mainly family concerns. As in the past they are concentrated at Balotra and Barmer.

The table below shows the extent of the industry at these two places:—

					<i>Barmer</i>	<i>Balotra</i>
Units	..	..	..	..	213	71
Workers	..	..	..	..	217	332
Dependents	..	..	..	..	598	352
Monthly production	..	..	..	..	2,54,500 yds.	3,85,000 yds.
Monthly sale	..	..	..	..	Rs. 1,60,000	Rs. 3,00,000

There are five calico printers' co-operative societies in the district with a total membership of 125.

## Weaving

This is an important branch of cottage industry carried out generally on a family basis. The materials used are coarse cotton locally produced, goat hair and the fleece of sheep.

The making of goat hair *pattis* was once a thriving industry with markets as far off as Afghanistan. In recent years, however, the demand has fallen off, though exports to Gujarat and Maharashtra are still fairly considerable. *Jat Patti* making, as it is locally known, is mainly localized at Jasol, in the Pachpadra panchayat samiti area and Balotra town but some households in the Gura Mallani and Chohtan panchayat samiti areas also are engaged in this work.

Gadra Road is the main centre for blanket weaving, and a co-operative has been formed there. Blankets are also manufactured on a small scale in villages such as Bar Singdesar, Lilma and Chohtan; they fetch about Rs. 20/- each. About 2,000 blankets are sold at the Tilwara fair every year. Normally, a single worker can weave a blanket in about three days.

Wool weaving is largely concentrated in the Barmer and Shiv areas. The wool is coarse and the market mainly local, though some woollen cloth finds its way to Gujarat and neighbouring districts of Rajasthan. The better quality costs about Rs. 8/- per yard.

Cotton weavers are the most numerous in the weaving community, numbering 1,540 at the time of the 1951 Census. Pit-shuttle looms are usually used by the weavers, fly-shuttle looms being rare. The weaving is usually done by men, the women carrying out subsidiary processes like sorting, winding, sizing and finishing. As only coarse cloth is produced, the market is mainly local and even then the supply is insufficient for the needs of the dyers and printers, who have to buy considerable quantities of mill-made cloth.

The weavers, being poor, are often forced to sell at unremunerative rates in order to obtain money for buying fresh raw material. The co-operative movement can be of considerable help in this regard. At the end of March 1961, there was a total of 40 weavers' co-operatives in the district with a combined membership of 1,123. Twenty-five of these were cotton weavers' societies.

## Bangle Industry

This industry is largely confined to the towns of Barmer and Balotra, the number of actual workers being eight at Barmer and

twelve at Balotra. There is also one bangle-producing household at Siwana and one at Samdari. The value of the entire annual production is said to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1,30,000.

Apart from the industry using local materials, there are six units engaged in the production of bangles made of ivory, plastic and lac, using imported materials. These units, however, are considerably handicapped by the shortage of raw material.

### Bidis

The *bidi* industry received an impetus at the time of Partition due to the influx of a large number of workers from Pakistan. It is mainly confined to Barmer town. The industry is largely controlled by business men, who finance independent workers on conditions extremely favourable to themselves. Some business men have set up small *bidi* manufacturing units employing workers on an output basis. There are 14 such *bidi* units in Barmer town, employing about 100 persons. Besides, there is the contract system under which the materials are supplied to persons who work in their own homes, and are paid at the flat rate of Re. 1/- per 1,000 *bidis* manufactured.

The value of the total monthly production is of the order of Rs. 50,000/- and of the *bidis* are consumed within the district itself.

### Tanning

Because of the large cattle population of the district, tanning is a fairly important cottage industry. The main centres are Shiv, Balotra, Siwana and Gura Mallani, where the necessary water supplies are available. The industry is carried on mainly on a family basis; the tanners are usually farmers, who take up this work in the slack season. The annual production is of the value of about Rs. 3 lakhs. The market is mostly local, though small quantities of hides are exported to Jaipur, Nasirabad, Agra and Kanpur. The number of persons engaged in this profession is as follows:—

					Tanners	Workers
Barmer	..	..	..	..	148	115
Shiv	..	..	..	..	148	159
Balotra	.	..	..	..	175	371
Siwana	..	..	..	..	111	225
Gura Mallani	..	..	..	..	90	117
TOTAL					672	987

## Shoes

The only large shoe-making centre is Barmer, where 181 workers in 102 houses are engaged in this profession. However, there are shoe-makers in all the towns and big villages, catering to local needs. The value of the total production is said to be in the region of Rs. 24,000/- per month.

The most common type of footwear produced is the ordinary Rajasthani jootie, for which there is considerable demand in the villages. Fancy, embroidered shoes are produced by a few expert craftsmen.

## Pottery

The pottery of this area is largely utility manufacture and consists mainly of water pots of various designs. Almost every big village has its own *kumhar*. The general scarcity of water is the main reason why the making of ornamental pottery is negligible.

In Balotra, there are 83 houses with 133 workers making a total of 29,000 pots annually, and in Siwana 66 houses with 120 workers producing about 12,000 pots. In no other places is production on a sizable scale.

## Carpentry

In all the towns and big villages there are carpenters, who make rough furniture and agricultural implements using indigenous tools. The main centres are Barmer, Baitu, Balotra and Siwana. The value of the total annual production is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1 lakh. The 1951 Census records the number of carpenters, turners and joiners as 388.

## Ghee

Because of the enormous number of cattle in the district, ghee-making has always been an important cottage industry. Usually, ghee is made from a mixture of cow's, goat's and camel's milk; ghee from cow's milk alone fetches a higher price. Barmer ghee was at one time famous throughout Rajasthan, but since the last world war there has been a tendency to adulteration, which has spoiled the good name of the local product.

## Smithy

Every town and several big villages have one or two *Lohar* families and there are also itinerant smiths, who move from place to

place repairing utensils and agricultural implements. The 1951 Census recorded 298 persons as blacksmiths and other workers in iron.

In the same year, there were 258 gold and silversmiths. There is a heavy demand for gold, silver and other fancy articles of wear during the marriage seasons, but at other times of the year trade is slack.

Fashions too, have undergone considerable changes. In the 19th century, artistic and costly jewellery gradually went out of fashion, though the demand for heavy gold articles persisted for a time. In recent decades, the high price of gold has affected the demand for such articles, though silver ornaments are as popular as ever, especially with village women.

## INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL

There are several traditional industries, which have long been famous but little attention has been paid to the improvement of production processes with the result that in some cases markets have been lost. Thus, the *Jat patti* industry has lost its market in Afghanistan because competitors were technologically more advanced. The dyeing and printing industry, too, is in need of calendering plants if it is to hold its own.

The district is rich in clay deposits and there is scope for the development of the pottery industry in areas, where sufficient water is available. The bentonite and selenite deposits also are large and can be more fully exploited than at present. There is also scope for a wool carding mill. Some parties have plans to start cable manufacture as soon as power is available.

A local business firm has submitted proposals for the establishment of a factory at Pachpadra to manufacture salt bi-products in collaboration with a Hungarian firm. The same firm has established a plaster of Paris factory at Jodhpur, where power is available, using raw material from this district.

The absence of power is the greatest single drawback to the drawing up of industrial plans for the area. With the establishment of new thermal power station at Balotra some improvement is expected, but it is unlikely that large-scale industry will make an appearance for some time to come.

## LABOUR WELFARE

As the district has no big mills or factories, the various labour laws have no application except in some mines. Thus there is virtually no control as regards pay, working conditions, etc. Moreover, as the industrial units are small, even enlightened employers cannot afford to provide adequate wages and welfare facilities.

In the salt industry, which is the largest in the district, some attempt at labour welfare has been made through the building of shelters for use during rest periods. There is also a dispensary which at one time had a fully qualified doctor but is now looked after by a compounder, aided by a nurse and ward-boy.

Drinking water for workers at the salt pits is brought by rail from Balotra and Samdari. In 1959-60, expenditure on water supply was about Rs. 24,400.

## LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS

There are no registered trade unions in the district. Prior to 1958, there were two registered unions, but their registrations were cancelled as they were not functioning properly. There are, however, a number of unregistered trade unions, mainly in the salt, *bidi* and mining industries. As labour is not organised, employers have not felt the need to set up their own organizations either.

## STATE ASSISTANCE

The Government, through its various agencies, has been giving assistance to the tanning, dyeing and printing, shoe-making, handloom, blacksmithy and carpentry industries.

Loans up to Rs. 5,000/- are granted by the District Loan Committee. The Director of Industries sanctions advances up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/-, while for sums exceeding Rs. 10,000/- the Rajasthan Loan Committee is the sanctioning authority.

The rates of interest charged on these loans are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum for co-operatives and 3 per cent for individuals.

The following table shows the extent of loans advanced by

the three authorities named above in recent years:

	(Rupees)				
	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Rajasthan Loan Committee ..	16,000	9,500	10,000	10,000	5,000
Director of Industries ..	5,000	5,100	11,500	9,000	5,000
District Loan Committee ..	nil	nil	20,000	20,000	20,000
TOTAL ..	21,000	14,600	41,500	39,000	30,000

### Departmental Set-up

In the time of Jodhpur State, there was a Department of Mines and Industries, which gave some encouragement to local industries. After the formation of Rajasthan, more positive aid was forthcoming and loans were advanced by the Assistant Director of Industries, stationed at Jodhpur, who also collected industrial statistics.

In May, 1956 a District Industries Office was set up. The District Industries Officer also assists the development of industries in Jaisalmer district. His immediate controlling authority is the Assistant Director, Industries at Jodhpur.

Industries Extension Officers have been posted in the panchayat samiti areas to assist these local bodies in drawing up industrial development plans and to give technical advice. Such officers are at present posted in the Pachpadra (headquarters at Balotra), Siwana, Shiv and Gura Mallani panchayat samiti areas.

### APPENDIX

#### SALT PRODUCTION

(in thousand maunds)

Year	Production			Issue	Closing Balance
1953 .. ..	918	870	215		
1954 .. ..	1151	1044	370		
1955 .. ..	1205	850	725		
1956 .. ..	345	752	318		
1957 .. ..	1102	718	702		
1958 .. ..	1529	768	1463		
1959 .. ..	812	704	1571		
1960 .. ..	580	1132	1128		



# WORKING OF SALT PITS

Sections	Total No. of pits	No. of working pits	No. of abandoned pits	Average annual production	Potential capacity	Quality of salt (Gen. description i.e. grain, colour)	Analysis (NaCl. contents only)
<i>Western Sector.</i> Hiragarh	330	221	110	6,00,000	9,00,000	Large grain salt, white in colour.	98 to 99 %
Bara Samra	382	31	351	Maunds	Maunds	Large or medium grain blue in colour.	95 to 98 %
<i>Eastern Sector.</i> Porsali	132	100	31	4,00,000	6,00,000	Fair or medium grain, white in colour.	98 to 99 %
Chota Samra	225	76	149	Maunds	Maunds	Large or medium grain, white or blue in colour	96 to 99 %

## Consumption :

The sections have a potential capacity of 15,00,000 mds. provided all the working pits are properly maintained and renovated in time. Production also depends on the amount of rainfall, which affects sub-soil percolation.

Large-grained white coloured salt is in greater demand in U.P., Rajasthan and Punjab. Rajasthan and Punjab also consume small grain salt, white in colour. White fine grain salt is consumed in Bihar.

## Clearance (in thousand maunds) to different States

State	..	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Punjab	..	148	68	114	44	14	58
Rajasthan	..	550	411	366	403	430	400
Delhi	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Madhya Pradesh	..	..	..	..	..	14	12
Uttar Pradesh	..	..	..	..	..	77	484
Bihar	..	..	..	..	..	..	80

## CHAPTER VI

### BANKING TRADE AND COMMERCE

#### BANKING AND FINANCE

##### HISTORICAL ASPECT

The territory, formerly known as Marwar, has long been renowned for its business class of Mahajans and Mallani was one of the districts, in which this class was numerically, very strong. Most of the Mahajans of this area belonged to the Oswal (very largely Jain), Agrawal and Maheshwari sections of the community.

Prior to the 19th century, the monopoly of supplying money to the cultivators and others was in the hands of these professional money-lenders, but after the settlement of 1894-6 the Darbar began making advances for agricultural improvement at lower rates of interest.

Major Erskine in the Gazetteer of 1909 records that the money-lenders at that time were very grasping. On cash loans they charged rates of interest varying from 12 to 24 per cent and in the case of grain advanced either for seed or subsistence the rates would be anything between 25 and 100 per cent. However, as the power of permanent alienation of land was neither enjoyed by the cultivator nor given to the civil courts, the most that could be done in a case of default was for a decree-holder to seize the standing crop after leaving something for the maintenance of the cultivator. Thus the borrowing power of the cultivator, and hence the extent of his indebtedness, was restricted.

##### PRESENT CREDIT FACILITIES

*Rural Indebtedness:*—The Rural Credit Survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India in 1951 shows that the problem of indebtedness is still a serious one. According to the Survey, more than 57 per cent of the rural families are in debt, the percentage for cultivators being 57.6 and for non-cultivators 52.6. The following

table illustrates the extent of indebtedness among groups with holdings of various sizes:—

Average size of holding (acres)	Percentage of indebted families.	Average burden of debt (Rs.)
198.8	58.8	2,202
112.5	60.0	1,431
35.1	63.7	741
18.6	46.8	404
All cultivators	57.0	900
Non-cultivators	52.0	408
All families	57.2	865

Those with medium size (about 35-acre) holdings provide the largest percentage of borrowers because they are not as well off as the bigger land-holders but are at the time able to offer sufficient security to satisfy the money-lenders. The small cultivators are necessarily unable to offer adequate security and thus, although their needs are greater, the extent of their borrowing is curtailed. A feature of the findings is that the average burden of debt and also the percentage of indebted families is much lower in the case of non-cultivators as compared with the farming classes.

*Urban Indebtedness:*—No survey of urban indebtedness has ever been undertaken. The townsmen, living as they do largely by trade and small industry, are for the most part rather poor and in need of money to run their businesses. They also incur non-productive expenditure on weddings, festivals, etc. Their business needs are met to some extent by the commercial banks and government agencies, but in incurring non-productive expenditure they have to resort to the money-lenders, whose charges remain as high as before.

*Reasons for Borrowing:*—A few words may be added here on the reasons for which loans are sought. The Rural Credit Survey showed that as much as 69.7 per cent of borrowings in the rural areas are for private family expenditure on such items as housing, purchase of goods, death and marriage ceremonies, festivals, medical and litigation expenses. Only 26.1 per cent of borrowings are for capital expenditure in agriculture such as the digging and repair of wells, purchase of livestock and implements, etc. Current farm expenditure claims 3.4 per cent of borrowings, the main items being manure, fodder, seed, storage charges and wages of farm workers, and the remaining 0.8 per cent is for miscellaneous items.

Cultivators with medium size holdings, who are the heaviest borrowers, spend as much as 80.8 per cent of their borrowings on family expenditure, as compared with 60.9 per cent in the case of small cultivators, 65.5 per cent for large-medium cultivators and 64.0 per cent in the case of big cultivators. The biggest cultivators, incidentally, spend the highest percentage of borrowing (35.4) on capital expenditure, the corresponding percentages for large-medium the medium and small cultivators being 28.8, 18.3 and 34.8 respectively.

This analysis is important because it shows the extent, to which money is borrowed, for non-productive items. As a result, unless the agriculturists as a whole learn to curtail wasteful expenditure, the money-lenders will continue to be a power in the villages in spite of the growth of the co-operative movement and assistance from official agencies.

*Co-operative Movement:*—The Rural Credit Survey estimated that about 68.5 per cent of the credit requirements of the village people are supplied by money-lenders, who thus are still the most important source of finance in the district. As there is little industrial potential to attract joint stock banks to the area, the only means of combating influence of the Mahajans and forcing them to charge lower rates of interest is the co-operative movement.

In this district the co-operative movement is of very recent origin, the first societies being set up only in 1948 under the Marwar Co-operative Societies Act of 1943. After the formation of Rajasthan, a new Co-operative Societies Act was brought into force with effect from April 1, 1953.

The progress of the movement during the initial stages was rather slow and in June, 1955 there were only 29 societies with a total membership of 736. Most of these were rural societies, though there were a few societies in industries such as weaving and cloth printing. The following table shows the position in 1955:—

Type of Societies	No.	Membership
Agricultural Credit .. .. .	2	28
Multipurpose .. .. .	8	221
Non-agricultural Credit .. .. .	2	33
Weavers .. .. .	4	125
Calico-Printers .. .. .	2	94
Kangsi Utpadak .. .. .	1	12
Purchase and Sale .. .. .	10	223
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>736</b>

Since the progress has been more rapid, especially after the setting up of an office of Assistant Registrar of Co-operatives in 1957. At the end of 1960-61 the number of co-operative societies had risen to 426, with a total membership of 27,511.

The details are as follows:—

				No.	Membership
1. Credit					
(i)	Central Bank	..	..	1	380
(ii)	Agricultural credit societies including M.P. and service co-operatives	..	..	200	21,203
(iii)	Primary Land Mortgage Bank	..		1	29
(iv)	Non-agricultural credit societies			3	144
(v)	Large size credit societies	..	..	9	1,176
				277	22,031
2. Non-credit.					
(i)	Non-credit institutions:				
(a)	Co-operative Institute	..	..	1	163
(ii)	Primary Agricultural Non-credit :				
(a)	Co-operative farming	..	..	21	234
(b)	Primary Marketing	..	..	3	190
(iii)	Primary Non-agricultural Non-credit :				
(a)	Weavers	..	..	40	1,123
(b)	Calico printers	..	..	6	138
(c)	Tel ghani	..	..	4	63
(d)	Leather workers	..	..	22	415
(e)	Blacksmiths and carpenters	..	..	4	74
(f)	Village potters	..	..	8	98
(g)	Consumer stores	..	..	12	1,356
(h)	Housing	..	..	4	114
(i)	Transport	..	..	Nil	Nil
(j)	Sheep Breeding	..	..	..	..
(k)	Bidi Utpadak	..	..	..	..
(l)	Basket-makers	..	..	..	..
(m)	Salt producer	..	..	Nil	Nil
(n)	Kangsi utpadak	..	..	..	..
(o)	Jat Utpadak	..	..	..	..
(p)	Un-soot Utpadak	..	..	..	..
(q)	Labour contract	..	..	4	67
(r)	Churi Utpadak	..	..	Nil	Nil
	Others	..	..	20	494
Total of item No. 2				149	4,580
Grand Total				426	27,511

These figures do not include 20 societies with a total membership of 508, which were under liquidation proceedings.

The growth of the movement has been particularly promising in the sphere of agricultural credit, with which are included multi-purpose societies. In industry, however, there is much room for improvement and activities such as transport, sheep breeding, basket-making, bidi manufacture, etc., are as yet out of the co-operative fold.

An apex bank branch, set up in the district in July, 1958 was a year later converted into the Barmer Central Co-operative Bank. By the end of December, 1960 this bank had advanced loans totalling about Rs. 19 lakhs. It charges  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on loans to agricultural societies and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on loans to other types of co-operatives. The maximum credit allowed to societies with limited liability is eight times their paid-up share capital and in the case of unlimited liability societies one-tenth of total assets.

The societies also obtain aid from various other sources, such as the Industries Department, the Khadi and Village Industries Board, development departments and others. At the end of March 1961, loans outstanding totalled Rs. 13,30,397, of which Rs. 11,01,130 was due to the Central Co-operative Bank, Rs. 71,885 to the Industries Department, Rs. 57,119 to the Khadi and Village Industries Board, Rs. 98,863 to the development departments and Rs. 1,400 to others.

On the whole, the co-operative movement has made commendable progress in a comparatively short period. On its future performance will depend the degree to which the financial power of the money-lending class can be reduced in the matter of loans for production or business. Of course, the societies cannot be expected to provide funds for non-productive purposes, and the money-lenders will continue to finance such expenditure on their own terms.

### Scheduled Banks

As stated earlier, the industrial potential of the district being small, there is not sufficient business to attract the attention of large established banks. The State Bank of Bikaner, now a subsidiary of the State Bank of India, opened a branch at Balotra in 1947 and another branch in Barmer in 1949. These two units are sufficient to meet the modest needs of the district at present.

### Insurance

The general apathy towards life insurance is reflected by the fact that, prior to 1957, not a single company had an agent per-

manently stationed in the district. In that year, the Life Insurance Corporation of India opened a Field Office at Barmer (later raised to the status of Development Office) to cover the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer. The office at present has six Field Officers and 41 agents. The year-wise business figures for Barmer district are as follows:—

1957	Rs. 7,50,000
1958	Rs. 17,25,000
1959	Rs. 21,23,000
1960	Rs. 35,00,000

The number of policy-holders in 1960 was only about 3 per cent of the population but the statement above shows that steady progress is being maintained. The general poverty of the people, and the consequent inability of most heads of families to pay the premiums, is a retarding factor.

There is a separate State Insurance Scheme for Rajasthan Government Servants. The scheme was introduced in 1954 and up to the end of 1960 a total of 3,514 employees had been insured.

Apart from life insurance, there are agents of two companies—the Premier General Insurance Company Limited, Madras and the Motor Owners' Mutual Insurance Company Limited, Belgaum—engaged in motor insurance. Neither of these companies has, however, opened a branch, the district falling within the Jodhpur branch of the former company and the Ajmer branch of the latter. As there are less than 300 motor vehicles in the district, business is small.

### CURRENCY AND COINAGE

No ancient coins have been unearthed in this area and it is not known whether the early chiefs of Mallani ever struck coins in their own name. The balance of probability is against this, as Mallani was at no time a seat of Empire.

The earliest coins, of which there is tangible evidence, are those of the Mughal Emperors, which circulated freely in Marwar up to the middle of the 18th century and were, eventually, displaced by the Bijaya Shahi coins, which Maharaja Bijaya Singh started minting in 1761. Maharaja Amar Singh had issued his Amar Shahi coins at Nagaur in the 17th century and Maharaja Ajit Singh had



also struck coins round about 1720. It is probable that the latter coins at any rate circulated along with the Mughal coins in this area.

Erskine's Gazetteer also refers to the Akhaya Shahi coins of Jaisalmer as being current in the western districts of Marwar.

The Bijaya Shahi coinage consisted of gold, silver and copper pieces, round in shape and bearing inscriptions in the Arabic and Devnagri script. There were, eventually, seven mints issuing these coins, none, however, in the parganas now forming Barmer District. Gold coins were minted only at Jodhpur, the coins being the mohar, half mohar and quarter mohar, and they were first struck in 1781. The silver coins were the rupee, eight-anna and four-anna pieces and were first struck in 1761. The copper coin was the paisa or pice, the original Bijaya Shahi pice being called "Dhabbu Shahi" on account of its great weight (310 grains). In commercial transactions the lowest unit of exchange was the shell or Kori, 80 of which equalled one Dhabbu pice. Three and half of these pice equalled one anna of the Marwar coinage.

British Indian coinage was introduced in Marwar during the time of Maharaja Man Singh and circulated alongside the local coins till November 1, 1900, when the princely state mints were closed.

A fuller account of the Marwar coinage is given in the Jodhpur district Gazetteer.

## TRADE AND COMMERCE

### Course of Trade

Major Walter, in the Mallani Gazetteer of 1879, states that the main exports of the area were horse and camel gear to Umarnkot, ghee to Jodhpur, Gujerat and Ajmer and gum to Bhiwani. Salt was exported by the Banjara community to Malwa and elsewhere. He also mentions the buying by traders of bullocks, sheep, goats and camels at the Tilwara fair. In good seasons grain was exported to Jaisalmer, the north-western parts of the Marwar and occasionally to Kutch. Among imports, Major Walter refers to opium from Kota, Jhalrapatan and Pali, English cotton from Karachi and Bombay (from Karachi it came via Hyderabad and Umarnkot and from Bombay via Ahmedabad, Deesa and Gura Mallani) and ivory from Mandwi by way of Gujerat and sometimes via Sind.

The improvement of communications has increased the quantum of trade. Several traditional markets for the products of

the district have, however, been lost following the formation of Pakistan and the finding of new markets within the borders of India, particularly for the cottage industry products, has proved difficult in the face of keen competition.

### Exports

The most important exports of the district are salt, dyed and printed cloth, animals and gypsum and other minerals. Salt and cloth find their way to ready markets all over India, especially in Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and even Bengal, Assam and Bihar as well as the cities of Rajasthan. Efforts are being made to export some varieties to West Asian countries.

The fair at Tilwara continues to be a big draw for buyers of animals who come mainly from Gujerat, Punjab and other parts of Rajasthan.

Among mineral products, gypsum is exported to the Sindri Fertilizer Factory and bentonite (crushed and uncrushed) is exported to industrial centres in Maharashtra, Gujerat, Bengal, etc. Selenite is exported to Jodhpur, where it is manufactured into plaster of Paris. Fuller's earth goes to Delhi, U.P., Punjab, Gujerat and other parts of Rajasthan.

The trade in grain fluctuates according to the strength of the monsoon. In years of good rainfall, which are few and far between, there may actually be an export of *bajra* to Gujerat and Maharashtra.

Other exports of the district are bones to Bhagat-ki-Kothi in Jodhpur, goat hair to Delhi, and wool to Beawar, Bikaner and Panipat. Even though *ghee* continues to be exported to Jodhpur and other neighbouring districts, its importance as an item of trade is declining due to adulteration by some producers.

### Imports

Even in normal years, the district imports large quantities of fodder and foodgrains. Wheat is imported mainly from the Punjab and Ganganagar District and *jowar* from Sawai Madhopur. Gur and sugar come from U. P. Building stone is imported mainly from Jodhpur and cement from Dwarka in Gujerat as well as Sawai Madhopur and Lakheri (Bundi district). Petroleum products are imported from the refineries in Maharashtra, vegetable oils mainly from Gujerat and Maharashtra, mill cloth from Madhya Pradesh,

Delhi, Gujerat, Uttar Pradesh and Beawar and Bhilwara in Rajasthan and handloom cloth from Bhojpura. Opium is imported from Kota, dry fruits from Bombay and Delhi and imperishable vegetables and some varieties of fruit from Jodhpur, Ajmer and Abu.

Other imports include machinery, glass and china-ware, drugs, perfumes and cosmetics, metal articles, electric goods, etc.

No accurate figures of exports and imports of these various commodities are available.

### Trade Centres

*Wholesale Markets:*—Mandis for wholesale trade in commodities like wool, *gur*, sugar, vegetables, grain (wheat, gram, jowar, *bajra*, *moong*, *moth*, *til*, etc.) exist at Barmer, Balotra, Siwana, Gadra Road, Chohtan and Gunga. Of these only Barmer, Balotra and Gadra Road are connected by rail and the rest by road. These markets are small by all-India standards but they play a very important part in the economic life of the district.

The only two major retail marketing centres are at Barmer and Balotra. Smaller retail markets exist at Siwana, Pachpadra, Shiv, Chohtan, Baitu, Sindhari, Samdari, Gunga, Mokalsar, Gadra Road and Munabao.

### Fairs

There is only one major fair of commercial importance, i.e. the Tilwara fair, which is held every year for a fortnight in spring in the bed of the river Luni near Tilwara village. A detailed description is given in the chapter on Agriculture and Irrigation.

A fair is held every year on *Paus Badi* 10 (in the month of December) at the Jain temples at Meva Nagar. It is known as the Mela of Nakora Parasnath after a Jain tirthankar. Thousands of Jains from all parts of India attend this fair.

The Kapleshwar *Bishan Pagalia Suia* fair is held at Chohtan, 32 miles from Barmer, on *somvati amavasya*. In the valley among the hillocks overlooking Chohtan, there is a temple of Kapleshwar Mahadeo and a pond known as Kapal Tirth. About a mile uphill from here is another holy place (*Bishan Pagalia*), where there are foot-prints on a stone; the religious believe these to be the prints of Vishnu. In another valley there is a temple of Mahadeo. There are springs at all these places.

Another fair, the Kalyan Singhji-ka-Mela is held in the fort of Siwana to commemorate the heroic defence of the fortress against Allauddin Khilji's army. It is held on *Sawan Sudi 2* (in the month of August).

The fair of Kalyan Singhji in the ruins of Siwana fort and that at *Bishanpagalia-Suia* are now becoming less important but a fair, which seems to be becoming more popular, is the Shitala Mata-ka-Mela, held every year on *Shitalashtami* (eighth day of the dark half of *Chaitra*) at Siwana. Started in 1959 by the panchayat samiti, Siwana, the fair attracted about 10,000 people in 1962.

### Co-operation in trade

A small beginning has been made in the sphere of co-operative marketing. There are three co-operative marketing societies, which in March, 1961 had a total membership of 190. There were also 12 consumers' co-operatives with a total of 1,356 members.

### Subsidised sale

Acute scarcity conditions are the rule rather than the exception in this district. Almost every year some parts are declared famine areas and, apart from such relief as revenue remission, shops are opened in the affected areas for the sale of grain at subsidized rates. In 1960-61 nine of these grain shops were opened at various places in Barmer tehsil, six in Shiv, four in Pachpadra and one in Chohtan-tehsil.

### Weights and Measures

The former Jodhpur seer weighed 100 tolas as compared to the 80 tola British India seer. As elsewhere, it was divided into half seer, pao and chhatak weights, the last being equivalent to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  paisa (Dhabbu). For trade purposes, especially in the wholesale grain and vegetable markets, articles were often sold by the *panseri* (5 seer) and pao-man (10 seer) weights. The Jodhpur seer was in use alongside the standard weight up to the time of formation of Rajasthan, but only for local dealings.

The traditional measurement of distance, the *kos*, equivalent to about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles, is still used by the village people. In land settlement operations the *jarih* (chain) in use is 132 ft. in length so that the bigha (chain  $\times$  chain) is two-fifths of the standard acre.

As with coinage, the former system of weights and measures is gradually being replaced by the metric system.

## CHAPTER VII

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### OLD ROUTES

Till the advent of motor vehicles, the chief means of transport in this area were camels, horses and bullock-carts. The general shortage of drinking water supplies meant that all trade and traffic had to follow certain well defined routes. The unwary traveller straying from the beaten path was in grave danger of perishing, even when mounted on a camel. While trade through this area was never considerable, it was on the military route from Sind to Ajmer and many a fierce battle was fought on its terrain.

Major Walter's Gazetteer of Mallani (1877) refers to a caravan route from north-west India to Dwarka in the Kathiawar peninsula as passing through Jasol, Sindhari and Gura Mallani. On this route, much used by pilgrims, sweet water was available at every stage and wheeled vehicles could be used. Another route branched off from Jasol to Gādra<sup>1</sup> in Sind, passing through the villages of Sanli, Nosar, Chawa, Shokar, Barmer, Jasai, Siana and Khatakapar. On this route also water was sweet and abundant, except at Chawa, where it was brackish. The road, however, was not good: carts could be used only up to Barmer, beyond which the path lay through sand.

A third route to which Major Walter refers was via Jaisalmer to Rori Bakar and passing through Tilwara, Santara, Sodhan, Ratu and Ondu. Water and supplies were available on this route also, and carts could be used on it, though with some difficulty.

A fourth important route was from Barmer to Takhtabad via Akora, Chohtan, Bijrar and Kelnor, but it was used only by camels and horses due to the sand. Water was, however, plentiful in most seasons. There was also a route from Barmer to Gura Mallani through Mitra, Nokhra and Khandali, fit only for camels. Finally, there was a much-used route from Jodhpur to Mallani which passed

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1. Gādra village is now in Pakistan but the railway station of Gādra lies within this district.

through Pachpadra and Jasol. This was a fairly good road suitable for carts.

## ROADS AND ROAD TRANSPORT

### Roads

The district is still deficient in good roads. No national highway passes through it, as it lies in a secluded, desert border region. Also, because the area is thinly peopled and its economic potentialities are rather limited, it has not been possible for the State Government to spare large funds for road-building. Thus, in the whole district there are only 661 miles, 7 furlongs of road, i.e., about 1 mile of road for every 16 square miles of area. Of this total length, only 50 miles, 3 furlongs are bitumenized and 30 miles metalled; gravel roads account for 546 miles, 4 furlongs and fair weather roads for the remaining 35 miles. The gravel roads, which account for the greater part of the total length, are suitable for jeeps, trucks and buses. Their irregular surface is hard on the springs and tyres of motor cars.

*State Highways*.—There are two roads, which fall into the category of state highways, i.e., that from Barmer to Jaisalmer, which is bitumenized up to Utlarai and is a gravel road thereafter, and the Barmer-Chhitalwana road via Dhorimana, which is gravelled throughout. The first has a total length of 54 miles, 6 furlongs up to the district border and the latter measures 68 miles. Though state highways, neither road is in very good condition.

*Major District Roads*.—A total of 172 miles, 2 furlongs of road come within this category. The roads concerned are:—

- (i) Shiv to Phalsund—a gravel road 38 miles long in the district.
- (ii) Barmer to Balotra—of a total distance of 71 miles, 22 miles are bitumenized, 20 miles metalled and the rest is a gravel road.
- (iii) Balotra to Jodhpur—this runs for 36 miles 6 furlongs in the district, of which 26 miles are bitumenized and the rest metalled.
- (iv) Balotra to Mokalsar via Siwana—a gravel road 26 miles 4 furlongs long.

*Other District Roads:*—There are only three gravel roads in this category, i.e., the road from Pachpadra to Madhpura, of which 23 miles lie in the district, the road from Shergarh to Agolai (32 miles) and the 55 miles long road Sindhari to Chhitalwana, which is gravelled for 33 miles and a fair weather road for the rest.

*Village Roads and Others:*—The following roads belong to this category:—

	Length		Type
	Miles	Furlongs	
Barmer to Chohtan .. .. .	34	..	Gravel
Mevanagar (approach road up to Barmer-Balotra road) .. .. .	6	4	Gravel
Samdari R.S. to Samdari village .. .. .	2	..	Gravel
Utarlai to Barmer .. .. .	6	..	Gravel
Gadra Road to Pakistan border .. .. .	2	..	Gravel
Shiv to Gadra Road .. .. .	46	..	Gravel
Ramnasar to Balewa .. .. .	15	..	Gravel
Balowa to Jalepa .. .. .	6	4	Gravel
Ajit to Dhawa .. .. .	6	..	Gravel
Samdari to Kalyanpura .. .. .	13	3	Gravel
Seedra to Chitrasar .. .. .	8	..	1 mile gravel and the rest a fair weather road.
Balotra to Khed Temple .. .. .	5	2	Gravel
Chawa to Phalsund .. .. .	38	..	Gravel
Pachpadra R. S. to Pachpadra town .. .. .	1	5	Bitumen
Jasol to Tilwara .. .. .	8	..	Gravel
Kanod to Pachpadra .. .. .	12	..	Gravel
Barmer to Harsani via Bisala .. .. .	13	..	Gravel
Barmer to Khadin Railway Station via Derasar .. .. .	24	..	Gravel
Malai to Salt lake (Approach road) .. .. .	5	..	Gravel
Approach road to Sekhala .. .. .	0	4	Gravel
Gura to Jalor via Bishangarh (up to district border) .. .. .	2	..	Gravel
Ramdeora to Nachana .. .. .	1	5	Gravel
Approach road to Guranaka Talab .. .. .	0	4	Gravel

Thus the total length of village roads and roads otherwise unclassified comes to 256 miles and 7 furlongs.

*Municipal Roads:*—The Barmer Municipal Committee maintains 1 mile, 686 yards of road. Of this, 1,680 yards are bitumenized and the rest gravelled. The details are as follows:—

Road	Type	Length
Station Road .. .. .	.. Bitumen	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
Panghat Road .. .. .	.. Gravel	2,100 ft.
Khagal Road .. .. .	.. Bitumen	900 ft.
Dhani Road† .. .. .	.. Bitumen	1,500 ft.
Police Station Road .. .. .	.. Gravel	200 ft.

The Municipal Committee of Balotra maintains the following roads:—

Road	Type	Length
Station Road .. .. .	.. Bitumen	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
Juna Kot to Khejri .. .. .	.. Macadam	1,100 ft.
Railway Gate Road .. .. .	.. Stone	600 ft.
Subzimandi to Baldeoji-ki-pol .. .. .	.. Stone	800 ft.
Mochiwara water hut road .. .. .	.. Stone	300 ft.
Nayapura Road .. .. .	.. 250 ft. bitumen and the rest gravel	600 ft.
Gorka Chauk to Baldeoji-ki-pol via Ghanchi- wara	Gravel	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile

*New Projects:*—The following road works were taken in hand during the second Plan period and had been nearly completed at the time of writing:—

Road	Type	Length of the section under construction.
Chohtan to Bhakasar .. .. .	.. Gravel	20 miles
Chawa to Phalsund .. .. .	.. Gravel	15 miles
Pachpadra to Knnod .. .. .	.. Gravel	5 miles
Gura to Jalore (up to district border) .. .. .	.. Gravel	3 miles
Barmer to Khadin .. .. .	.. Gravel	12 miles



## Road Transport

*Vehicles*.—In the whole district there were at the end of 1960-61, only 295 motor vehicles, as follows:—

Type of Vehicle	Number
Pick-up vans .. .. .	10
Buses .. .. .	68
Trucks .. .. .	166
Cars .. .. .	22
Jeeps .. .. .	52
Tractor trailers .. .. .	23
Motor cycles .. .. .	4
	<u>295</u>

The reason for these very small numbers is that the district has few roads, and most of these are not bitumenized so that only heavy vehicles and jeeps can be used without inconvenience. Camel-back continues to be the most popular means of long distance transport in the interior.

Use of the bicycle, too, is necessarily limited to the urban areas as distances are great, water on the road routes scarce and deep sand present almost everywhere. Nearly all the bicycles in the district are concentrated in the towns of Barmer, Balotra and Pachpadra. There are municipal committees at the first two places, but as neither has imposed a cycle tax it is difficult to assess the number of such conveyances in the district. At a rough estimate it can, however, be put at around 200.

Tongas are almost non-existent, there being only two in Barmer town and none to be seen elsewhere. Transport in the towns is usually by bullock or camel-drawn cart, though there are also some three-wheeled hand-drawn carts in Barmer and Balotra.

*Public Transport*.—There is no State or municipal-owned public transport service. Private operators, however, run a number of bus services connecting places within and outside the district. Most of these services originate in the district itself, while others originate elsewhere and either pass through or terminate in the district. The Jodhpur-Balotra bus service is one such instance.

The main bus services connect the district headquarters town of Barmer and the sub-divisional town of Balotra with, among other places, Madpura, Pachpadra, Patodi, Padru, Mokalsar, Siwana, Sindhari, Chohtan, Dhorimana, Sanchoe (in Jalore district), Bhakasar, Agolai (in Jodhpur district), Jasol, Phalsund (in Jodhpur district), Phagalia, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Pokaran (in Jaisalmer district).

Even though permits are freely granted to operators, usually the number of passengers is so small on the minor routes that only one bus runs daily on such routes, the operators plying their vehicles in turn through mutual arrangement.

The main bus routes are as follows:—

	Route	Length (miles)	No. of buses
1.	Balotra-Madpura via Pachpadra, Newai Reoda, Thob, Patodi Road, Sathoon .. .. .	30	3
2.	Balotra-Patodi via Pachpadra, Gogti, Rechoti .. .. .	23	1
3.	Balotra-Padru via Aeoda, Bhudiwaro Jagsa, Dakha, Deora, Mithodi .. .. .	30	4
4.	Balotra-Mokalsar via Muthali, Thopa, Kusip, Siwana .. .. .	32	7
5.	Balotra-Sanchoe via Asada, Tapra, Kalvari, Dhuka Sindhari Oolia, Sura, Guda, Chhitalwana, Amli .. .. .	90	12
6.	Balotra-Jodhpur .. .. .	70	18
7.	Barmer-Sindhari via Kurla, Rawasur, Chawa, Kheriji, Saenan .. .. .	41	3
8.	Barmer-Chohtan via Undhaka, Ranigaon, Radwas, Sawan-lora, Akara, Dhudhwa, Sanasoo .. .. .	32	6
9.	Barmer-Dhorimana via Khurja, Hathitala, Sanwara, Baasan, Sobhala, Roh .. .. .	56	4
10.	Barmer-Harsani via Jalopa, Bhadrar, Besala, Dundaberi, Nand, Didiyar, Balawa .. .. .	55	2
11.	Barmer-Bhakasar via Mahavi, Bamond, Gula-ki-Bari, Sathu and Artu .. .. .	96	3
12.	Barmer-Jaisalmer via Devikot, Gunga .. .. .	100	7
13.	Padru-Morseem .. .. .	34	1
14.	Chohtan-Bhakasar via Kaparan, Bijasar, Indren-ka-tala, Ban-ka-tala .. .. .	50	1
15.	Gunga-Pokaran .. .. .	100	2
16.	Gunga-Phalsund .. .. .	50	1
17.	Samdari-Agolai via Duggar, Chali, Sanai, Ajit .. .. .	48	3
18.	Mokalsar-Phalna .. .. .	76	2

## RAILWAYS

The first railway line in this area, a branch line of the Jodhpur Railway from Luni Junction to Pachpadra via Balotra, was opened on March 23, 1887. The main intention does not appear to have been to provide passenger facilities but to enable the fuller exploitation of the salt beds. The total length was 60.51 miles. Later, the line was extended from Balotra into Sind via Barmer, the length of this extension up to the British India border being 134.44 miles. This section, known as the Balotra-Shadipalli Railway, was opened on December 22, 1900.

In 1931, a branch line from Samdari to Raniwara (95.23 miles) via Jalore was constructed. Only about 23 miles of this line lie in Barmer district, the last station being Mokalsar.

During the thirties, the realignment of the Balotra-Pachpadra section was undertaken. A portion of 6.75 miles as far as Pachpadra was opened on September 26, 1939 and on April 11, 1940 the line was completed up to the Salt Depot.

*Stations & Trains:*—The rail sections in this area came under the administrative control of the Northern Railway after the merger of the princely states. The lines are all metre-gauge. As far as the district is concerned, the main line is that from Luni Junction to the Pakistan border. This enters the district at Ajit and terminates at Munabao near the border, the total length in the district being 161 miles (259 Km). The stations are: Ajit, Samdari Junction, Parlu, Janiana, Balotra Junction, Khed Temple, Tilwara, Gole, Bhimarlai, Baitu, Bania Sanda Dhora, Kawas, Utarlai, Barmer, Jasai, Khadeen, Bachbhar, Ramasar, Gagaria, Gadra Road, Lilma, Jaisinder and Munabao. Two trains, one an express and the other a passenger, run each way every day as far as Barmer. At present, the Up Express arrives at Barmer at 4.20 a.m. and the Passenger at 2.25 p.m.; the Down Express leaves Barmer at 0.35 a.m. and the Passenger at 5.40 a.m. All are through trains to Jodhpur via Luni Junction.

Persons bound for and coming from the border have to detain at Barmer. Only one passenger train runs daily each way between Barmer and Munabao. The Up Passenger from Barmer leaves at 7 a.m., arriving at Munabao at 12.30 p.m. and the Down Passenger leaves Munabao at 5 p.m., arriving at Barmer at 10.30 p.m.

Between Balotra and the Pachpadra Salt Depot three Passenger trains run each way every day. The trains from Balotra leave at 5 a.m., 11-30 a.m. and 1-30 p.m. respectively, and those from the

Depot at 7-25 a.m., 4-03 p.m. and 4-45 p.m., respectively. There are only three stations on this route—Balotra, Pachpadra city and the Salt Depot. The trains cover the distance in about one and a quarter hours.

Only a small section of the branch line from Samdari towards Jalore and beyond lies in this district. The four stations are Samdari, Bamsin, Rakhi and Mokalsar. Passenger trains leave daily from Samdari at 4.45 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. and the return trains arrive at this place at 0.11 a.m. and 9.25 a.m.

Altogether, there are only 191 miles of railway track in the whole district.

Through carriages (III class) from Delhi, Agra Fort, Marwar and Palanpur run up to Barmer. The coaches from Delhi and Agra Fort are attached to the Up Passenger train and those from Palanpur and Marwar Junction to the Up Express. The carriages return on the Down trains. Buffet cars are attached to the passenger trains from Jodhpur to Barmer and Barmer to Munabao.

The passenger traffic is not very considerable and the present services are adequate. A considerable part of the traffic consists of people going to or coming from Pakistan.

*Economic Aspect:*—The railways have to a certain extent minimized the rigours of famine, enabling the speedy despatch of relief to stricken areas. Water is also supplied to scarcity areas in railborne tanks. Unfortunately, there are no branch lines into the interior. Because of the lack of good roads, the railways play a very important part in the economic life of the area and all the towns and most of the centres of small industrial activity are concentrated on the rail-routes. However, though in the interest of famine relief work it is desirable that branch lines be built into the interior, this would not be economic as the sandy desert has no agriculture worth the name nor are there any metallic minerals or raw materials for industry, which would justify the expense at this stage.

## AIRFIELDS

There is no air service to the district, but emergency landing grounds exist at Utarlai, Tilwara and Gadra Road. Formerly, there was another landing ground at Shiv, but this was abandoned in 1942. All these landing grounds were constructed during the days

when the district was part of Jodhpur State. The field at Utarlal, eight miles from Barmer, is now maintained by the Government of India. It is enclosed by a fence and is in good condition. The other airfields are not as well maintained.

## AMENITIES FOR TRAVELLERS

### Dharmashalas

In the days of caravan traffic, *dharmashalas* used to be maintained at halting places along the main trade routes. Many of these have long since disappeared, but *dharmashala* still exist at Barmer, Balotra, Mewa Nagar, Khed, Mokalsar, Ajit, Gadra Road, Jasai and Pachpadra.

### Rest Houses

The Public Works Department maintains dak bungalows at Balotra and Barmer and rest houses at Siwana, Tilwara, Gura Mallani and Sindhari. The Balotra dak bungalow has three rooms. It has recently been electrified and running water is available during certain hours. The Barmer dak bungalow has only two rooms, but two more are to be added. It has also been electrified recently and tap water is available for a few hours.

The Tilwara rest house has six rooms. The Siwana rest house has two rooms and those at Gura Mallani and Sindhari one each. There are water connections in all the rest houses, but neither here nor in the dak bungalows are there cooks on the establishment although utensils are kept for those who may wish to use them.

The railway authorities have constructed rest houses at Samdari, Balotra, Baitu, Barmer, Gadra Road and Munabao apart from waiting rooms at several stations. The land customs have their own rest house at Barmer and the Salt Department a dak bungalow at the Pachpadra Salt Depot for the use of their officials.

### Hotels

There is no hotel in any of the towns, though some of the restaurants in Barmer and Balotra do keep lodgers.

## POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The Jodhpur Darbar adopted Imperial postal unity in 1885, following which experimental post offices were set up at various

places in the State including Barmer and Balotra. The post offices at these two places were made permanent on June 1, 1911.

Today, there is not a single full-fledged post office in the district. There are, however, 62 offices of different categories; of these, six are sub-offices, all permanent except those at Pachpadra city and Chohtan. The remaining 56 are branch offices, 17 being permanent. Telegraphic facilities are provided at four offices only, viz., Barmer, Balotra, Pachpadra city and Siwana, but there are plans to provide these facilities at Shiv, Bagi Dora and Chohtan also.

In the towns and nearby villages, mail is distributed daily, but there are villages in the interior where delivery of a letter may take as long as two weeks. Even the headquarters of some of the panchayat samitis are not served in quick time.

The following is a list of post offices in the district (the dates of opening are given in brackets):

<i>Post Offices</i>	Nil.
<i>Sub-Offices</i>	1. Barmer (1-6-1911)
	2. Dhani Bazar, Barmer town sub-office (15-9-55)
	3. Chohtan (2-2-52)
	4. Balotra (1-6-1911)
	5. Pachpadra city (1-1-35)
	6. Siwana (1-11-32)

The sub-offices at Chohtan and Pachpadra city were originally started as extra-departmental branch offices and that at Siwana as a departmental branch office. They were raised to the status of sub-offices on the following dates: Chohtan 14-3-1957; Pachpadra City 16-3-1956, and Siwana 1-3-1956.

#### Extra-departmental Branch Offices.

1. Bataru	..	..	..	..	(28-2-52)
2. Baitu	..	..	..	..	( 1-4-33)
3. Bakhisar	..	..	..	..	(24-12-54)
4. Bachbhar	..	..	..	..	(17-2-60)
5. Bhawatra	..	..	..	..	( 9-5-56)
6. Bisala	..	..	..	..	( 2-2-59)
7. Bisarniya	..	..	..	..	( 6-8-52)
8. Bignsar	..	..	..	..	(27-2-60)
9. Burhanka Tala	..	..	..	..	(15-12-54)
10. Asadan	..	..	..	..	(28-1-52)
11. Asotra	..	..	..	..	( 2-2-59)

12.	Chawa .. .. .	(25-2-52)
13.	Chhitar Kapar .. .. .	(17-2-59)
14.	Dhorimana .. .. .	(22-2-60)
15.	Dhudhu .. .. .	( 5-3-52)
16.	Gagariya .. .. .	(19-2-60)
17.	Gadra Road .. .. .	( 1-9-33)
18.	Girab .. .. .	(15-6-55)
19.	Giran .. .. .	(21-3-55)
20.	Gunga .. .. .	( 1-3-43)
21.	Gura Mallani .. .. .	( 8-2-60)
22.	Hodu .. .. .	(28-3-52)
23.	Jasai .. .. .	(10-4-50)
24.	Jasol .. .. .	( 1-4-35)
25.	Kawas .. .. .	( 1-4-30)
26.	Karmawas .. .. .	(15-9-58)
27.	Khandap .. .. .	( 1-9-45)
28.	Kanana .. .. .	( 5-1-60)
29.	Khudala .. .. .	( 4-2-60)
30.	Lilma .. .. .	( 1-4-40)
31.	Mahabar .. .. .	(20-2-52)
32.	Medusar .. .. .	(29-2-52)
33.	Munabao .. .. .	(15-2-54)
34.	Majal .. .. .	(18-2-60)
35.	Mokalsar .. .. .	( 2-7-30)
36.	Nokhra .. .. .	(15-2-60)
37.	Nagarvewa .. .. .	( 6-2-60)
38.	Netrar .. .. .	(13-2-52)
39.	Parau .. .. .	(15-2-60)
40.	Payalakalan .. .. .	( 2-2-60)
41.	Pachpadra Salt .. .. .	(1-12-35)
42.	Parlu .. .. .	( 8-7-26)
43.	Patodi .. .. .	(1-10-29)
44.	Padru .. .. .	(29-2-52)
45.	Ramsar .. .. .	(1-11-30)
46.	Ranigaon .. .. .	(24-2-60)
47.	Rawatsar .. .. .	(25-2-52)
48.	Rakhi .. .. .	(10-2-58)
49.	Ramnia .. .. .	(7-12-59)
50.	Sanawara .. .. .	(26-2-60)
51.	Sarnu .. .. .	(15-2-60)
52.	Sindhari .. .. .	(29-2-56)
53.	Sintara .. .. .	(22-2-60)
54.	Sawalpadam Singh .. .. .	( 2-2-52)
55.	Sedwa .. .. .	(20-12-54)
56.	Siyania .. .. .	(18-7-56)
57.	Sirana .. .. .	(31-3-55)
58.	Shiv .. .. .	(1-10-34)
59.	Samdari .. .. .	( 1-4-33)
60.	Taratara .. .. .	(29-2-52)
61.	Utarlai .. .. .	(16-11-36)
62.	Utarlai Mines .. .. .	(15-11-58)

### Telephones

There are two telephone exchanges in the district, at Barmer and Balotra, respectively. The Barmer exchange, established on August 1, 1949, works all 24 hours and has 49 permanent connections. The exchange at Balotra which was opened on November 11, 1956 has 30 connections; it operates from 6 a.m. to midnight on week-days and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

Public call offices have been opened at Samdari and Munabao. The Samdari office works from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on week-days and 10 a.m. to noon on Sundays and holidays. The Munabao office is open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on week-days and 6 a.m. on Sundays and holidays. Public call offices have also been provided at the Barmer and Balotra sub-post offices.

### Radio Stations

The district has no radio transmitting stations except those for the official use of the Commandant, Rajasthan Armed Constabulary, the Superintendent of Police and the Anti-locust Organisation of the Government of India.

The total number of registered radio receiving sets in the year 1960 was 774.



## CHAPTER VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS AND ECONOMIC TRENDS

#### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

No records of the number of persons engaged in various occupations prior to 1951 exist, as this district was carved out of several parganas of the former Jodhpur State and separate figures for the parganas are not available.

##### Public Service

In the 1951 Census, public servants are listed in various categories such as those working in government offices, municipalities and other local bodies, police, village watchmen and other village officials and servants. The Census has not taken separate note of government servants such as teachers, doctors, engineers, etc.; these have been shown with others in their separate specialized occupations. Thus, it is not possible to estimate accurately the total number of public servants; the main categories are, however, listed in the statement given later in this chapter.

The number of those in public service has increased considerably since 1951 due to the setting up of new district offices and particularly in view of the increase in the Government's development functions.

##### Professions

Because of the lack of technical institutions, the teaching, medicine and law professions are not well represented. Also, the climate of the area, the shortage of water and other facilities and limited opportunities for practice (the area is sparsely peopled and there is no large town) have tended to keep away professional men. However, because of the opening of a large number of state-run schools and the increase in the number of district courts, the numbers of teachers and lawyers have risen appreciably in the past 10 years; the rate of progress in the medical field has been slower. At the time of the 1951 Census there were only 129 teachers in the district,

eight registered doctors, two nurses and midwives and three lawyers. By the end of 1960-61 these numbers had risen to more than 750 teachers (41 of them running private schools), 12 doctors, seven nurses and midwives and 41 members of the legal profession.

### Others

Large numbers of people are engaged in small industries and in miscellaneous services like trade, construction work and the rendering of personal service such as tailoring, hair-cutting and domestic service. There is a total absence of large industry.

The following table shows the numbers of persons shown in the 1951 Census as deriving their main source of income from various non-farming occupations; the table is not comprehensive, nor is it entirely accurate as some of the occupations are so closely allied that mistakes in entries have been inevitable:—

<i>Type of Occupation</i>	<i>No. of persons</i>
1. Herdsmen and shepherds .. .. .	2,849
2. Breeders of domestic animals .. .. .	1,637
3. Wood-cutters .. .. .	137
4. Workers in stone-quarries, clay and sand pits .. .. .	391
5. Employees of salt works .. .. .	201
6. Flour grinders .. .. .	125
7. Oil pressers .. .. .	91
8. Bidi-makers .. .. .	93
9. Cotton-ginners .. .. .	41
10. Yarn spinners .. .. .	126
11. Cloth weavers .. .. .	1,411
12. Dyers and printers .. .. .	614
13. Tailors .. .. .	1,004
14. Shoe makers .. .. .	566
15. Other leather workers .. .. .	230
16. Blacksmiths .. .. .	298
17. Gold and silver ornament makers .. .. .	258
18. Bangle-makers .. .. .	50
19. Brick-makers .. .. .	105
20. Potters .. .. .	583
21. Stone goods workers .. .. .	105
22. Carpenters .. .. .	388
23. Scavengers .. .. .	235
24. General merchants .. .. .	736
25. Pedlars .. .. .	138
26. Sellers of gold and silver-ware .. .. .	51

<i>Type of Occupation</i>						<i>No. of persons</i>
27.	Sellers of dyes	..	..	..	..	156
28.	Sellers of iron and brass-ware	..	..	..	..	30
29.	Grain shop-keepers	..	..	..	..	371
30.	Sellers of sugar and gur	..	..	..	..	36
31.	Sellers of meat	..	..	..	..	28
32.	Spice merchants	..	..	..	..	1,952
33.	Sellers of ghee and oil	..	..	..	..	151
34.	Confectioners	..	..	..	..	94
35.	Turmeric sellers	..	..	..	..	163
36.	Betel shop-keepers	..	..	..	..	32
37.	Sellers of wood	..	..	..	..	125
38.	Sellers of wool	..	..	..	..	450
39.	Sellers of cloth	..	..	..	..	1,472
40.	Sellers of leather shoes	..	..	..	..	91
41.	Wholesale grocers	..	..	..	..	137
42.	Wholesale dealers in sheep and goats	..	..	..	..	33
43.	Wholesale dealers in gunny bags	..	..	..	..	166
44.	Wholesale dealers in cattle	..	..	..	..	33
45.	Money-lenders	..	..	..	..	560
46.	Brokers	..	..	..	..	165
47.	Motor drivers	..	..	..	..	141
48.	Camel drivers	..	..	..	..	256
49.	Bullock cart drivers	..	..	..	..	184
50.	Earth and stone carriers	..	..	..	..	125
51.	Railway employees	..	..	..	..	348
52.	Railway station porters	..	..	..	..	74
53.	Doctors	..	..	..	..	8
54.	Vaids	..	..	..	..	11
55.	Dispensaries staff	..	..	..	..	15
56.	Teachers	..	..	..	..	129
57.	Employees of Polico Department	..	..	..	..	393
58.	Village watchmen	..	..	..	..	917

<i>Type of Occupation</i>	<i>No. of persons</i>
59. Municipal servants .. .. .	47
60. State Government employees not otherwise classified ..	602
61. Union Government employees not otherwise classified ..	701
62. Labourers .. .. .	2,209
63. Domestic servants .. .. .	488
64. Barbers .. .. .	485
65. Washermen .. .. .	60
66. Hotel and restaurant employees .. .. .	94
67. Musicians .. .. .	243
68. Priests and others serving in temples and mosques ..	235

The list shows that the number of persons engaged in petty trade and private small industry is very large. In the case of industry, the unit is often the family though the Government is encouraging the formation of co-operatives especially in those occupations where the bulk of workers belong to the same sub-community. The condition of individual workers is far from satisfactory: they have to dispose of their goods quickly in order to be able to buy fresh raw material and are thus at the mercy of the trading class which, by and large, is well off. More details of the economic condition of industrial workers and the efforts being made to improve their lot are to be found in the chapter on Industries. Those rendering personal services to the public, e.g., barbers, washermen, domestic servants, etc., are also not well off. As elsewhere, government service is much sought after because of the security it offers and the higher wages.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Livelihood Pattern

The industrial potential of the district is very low and, therefore, in spite of the dry climate and lack of good soils, as much as 77.4 per cent of the population depend directly or indirectly upon agriculture (including animal husbandry) for their livelihood (1951 Census figure). If absentee landlords are excluded, the percentage is 76.4. In 1951, ownership of cultivable land in the district was concentrated in the hands of a few, as much as 66.4 per cent of the agriculturists cultivating land wholly or mainly unowned. Cultivating labourers and non-cultivating owners of land formed 0.9 and 1 per cent, respectively,

and cultivators of owned land only 9.1 per cent. This was because the greater part of the area was held in jagir. The position has, of course, changed with the abolition of big estates.

Not much change has, however, taken place in the non-agricultural sector, which in 1951 formed only 22.6 per cent of the population. Persons deriving their livelihood from miscellaneous sources formed the largest group (8.8 per cent) in the non-agricultural category closely followed by those in industry (7.6 per cent). Next were traders with 5.7 per cent. The smallest itemized source of livelihood was the transport industry, which supported only 0.6 per cent of the population.

Among the rural population, agriculturists formed an overwhelming majority (83 per cent) of whom 71.3 per cent were cultivators of unowned land. Owner cultivators formed 9.7 per cent and cultivating labourers and non-cultivating owners about 1 per cent each. Among non-agricultural classes, miscellaneous sources again provided a means of livelihood to the largest group (7.4 per cent) followed by workers in industry and traders with 5.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent, respectively. Transport supported only 0.4 per cent of the rural population.

In the urban areas, 93 per cent of the people fell in the non-agricultural category, traders forming the biggest group with 33.4 per cent. Industrial owners and workers formed 30.7 per cent and transport 3.3 per cent. Among the agricultural classes, owner cultivators formed 1.9 per cent and cultivators of unowned land 4.6 per cent. Non-cultivating owners of land and cultivating labourers totalled 0.3 and 0.2 per cent, respectively.

### Economic Status

Of every 10,000 people belonging to the agricultural classes, 4,177 were self-supporting persons, 1,044 earning dependants and 4,779 were non-earning dependants. Only 20.9 per cent of these classes possessed a secondary source of income of whom 18.41 per cent were earning dependants and the rest self-supporting. Including whole time and part-time workers, there were 1,78,321 people in the district working in the sphere of agriculture.

Among the non-agricultural classes, about 60.51 per cent were non-earning dependants and 7.73 earning dependants. Of every 10,000 persons belonging to these classes, 25 were employers, 1,983

employees, 7,510 independent workers and 482 economically unproductive self-supporting persons.

A class-wise analysis of the economic status of the people following occupations comprised in each non-agricultural class shows that:—

(1) among persons engaged in Industry (production other than cultivation) 11,809 were self-supporting persons (forming 35.34 per cent of the total), earning dependants were 4,508 (13.49 per cent) and non-earning dependants 17,096 (51.17 per cent);

(2) among those engaged in Trade, 7,403 were self-supporting persons (forming 29.55 per cent), earning dependants totalled 629 (2.51 per cent) and non-earning dependants 17,019 (67.94 per cent);

(3) in Transport, 1,225 were self-supporting (47.57 per cent), earning dependants 95 (3.7 per cent) and non-earning dependants 1,255 (48.73 per cent);

(4) amongst persons engaged in other Services and deriving income from Miscellaneous Sources, 11,231 were self-supporting (29.04 per cent) 24,965 (64.55 per cent) were non-earning dependants and 2,478 earning dependants.

Non-productive sources of income provide a means of subsistence for 1,526 persons. Most of these (1,469 persons or 96.9 per cent) were beggars and vagrants. There was one self-supporting beggar per 21 self-supporting persons in the total population.

### Price level

The value of the rupee at the turn of the century can be gauged from the fact that wheat sold at 11 seers per rupee, barley and *bajra* 15 seers, *jowar* 16 seers and gram 17 seers. The extent to which prices have risen during the past 60 years is seen by a comparison of the above prices with those listed in the following table, which covers the period 1955-60:

Retail prices of food-grains (average)

(Rs. per maund)

Year			Wheat	Barley	Gram	Jowar	Bajra
1955	..	..	13.22	8.81	11.00	7.75	7.98
1956	..	..	15.03	12.77	12.25	11.58	13.49
1957	..	..	17.21	12.35	13.41	13.22	15.97
1958	..	..	18.44	14.03	15.48	13.11	14.96
1959	..	..	21.19	12.50	16.85	13.81	15.33
1960	..	..	20.32	12.00	14.59	12.97	14.83

Prevailing prices for other commodities are: rice, between Rs. 24 and Rs. 54 per maund, depending upon quality; *ghee*, Rs. 6 per seer, sugar Rs. 41 per maund and milk 50 nP. to one rupee per seer. Most pulses are available between 50 nP. and one rupee for the seer. Firewood ordinarily sells around Rs. 1.50 per maund and kerosene oil at about 31 nP. for a quart-size bottle.

The prices of all foodgrains showed a marked upward trend during the early years of the second Plan period, reaching their highest level in 1959, after which there was some fall in most cases. The rise was most conspicuous in the case of *bajra*, the staple winter foodgrain of the masses, which rose from Rs. 7.98 in 1955 to Rs. 17.28 at the end of 1960 (the figure given in the table is the average for the year), an increase of more than 100 per cent. Wheat, another very important grain, registered a price rise of almost 50 per cent. Among other cereals, barley rose, during the same period, by Rs. 3.19 per maund, gram by Rs. 2.59 and jowar by Rs. 5.22.

### Wages

Around the beginning of the present century the wages for different kinds of labour ranged between 4 to 12 annas per day. Now, the daily wage level in industry varies from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.75 for adults and from Re. 1.00 to Rs. 1.50 for women and boys. Skilled workers like masons, carpenters, etc., earn up to Rs. 5 per day. While wages have thus considerably increased since the Political Agency Gazetteer was written, the fixed wage earner is probably not as well off as before as the general price level has risen at a higher rate. Also, because the area is industrially backward, and the workers are not organised, wages tend to be lower than in most parts of the State.

Domestic servants are kept only by the more well-to-do in the urban areas and, of course, the Thakurs. If employed whole-time, the usual wage is around Rs. 20 per month plus food. The more common practice, however, is to employ domestic servants for specific tasks, the monthly wage for about an hour of daily work varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. Private chowkidars are kept only by ex-jagirdars and wealthy men, who are few in this district. The fee paid to midwives depends on the financial condition of the employer. For a ten-day service, the normal fee is about Rs. 20 but this varies according to the reputation built up by the midwife.

## Rural Wages

There is not much difference in the maximum and minimum rates paid for various agricultural jobs like weeding, reaping, irrigation, etc. The maximum daily wage for weeding is Rs. 3 and the minimum a man will accept is Rs. 1.50. Women are paid at lower rates, the maximum and minimum in their case being Rs. 1.75 and Re. 0.75 respectively. Wages for reaping are slightly higher, as the work is more arduous. Men receive between Rs. 2 and Rs. 3.50 per day and women between Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Irrigation labour is employed only in the eastern tehsil of Siwana and the daily wage is between Rs. 2 and Rs. 3. Sometimes such wages are paid in kind at the rate of 15 Mds. of wheat for the whole season. There is also the system of keeping permanent farm attendants (*hali*) who are expected to live at the farm site and do all the work. A *hali* is usually paid Rs. 300 in cash for the whole year, besides free lodging and food, which also includes tobacco and three pairs of *dhoties*, three shirts, a pair of shoes, a turban and a sheet (*pacheri*).

## Standard of living

Major K. D. Erskine, in the Gazetteer of 1909, says of the style of living of the people of Marwar:

"The material condition of the urban population is on the whole satisfactory, and the standard of living is considerably higher than it was 50 years ago; the agricultural population, on the other hand, has become impoverished from bad seasons, and where there has not been a perceptible falling off, there has at any rate been little or no progress. The style of living of the middle-class clerk, the landless day-labourer and the ordinary cultivator in former days and at the present time may be briefly noticed.

"The clerk has certainly improved in every way. In place of the scanty, coarse and clumsy clothes which characterized his superior. The fine Manchester-made cloth has superseded the local predecessor, he has adopted a style of dress which is both costly and *reza* and the *dhoti* has made way for a pair of trousers; his children and women are better dressed, and on occasions of marriages and festivals there is often a display of glittering finery in clothes and ornaments. An improvement in the design, construction and furniture of his habitation is also noticeable. The *kachha* or humble thatched dwelling has been replaced by a *pucca* house, the floors and walls of which are plastered instead of being occasionally coated with



cow dung; the rooms are larger, loftier and better ventilated, and latrines, formerly conspicuous by their absence, now form part of almost every building. The bare floors are often covered with cheap carpets or rugs, and the furniture includes a few stools, chairs, a table and some bedsteads. Metal cooking utensils have taken the place of earthen pots, and the food is generally of a better class—wheat instead of *bajra* and *moth*. The smoking of foreign cigarettes and the chewing of betel-leaves, formerly regarded as veritable luxuries, is common, and there is hardly a clerk who has not got his *chakar* or servant, while some also keep a female domestic (*deori*).

“The landless day-labourer, whether a porter at the railway station, a mill-hand, a household servant, a water-carrier, etc., has also made great strides. He has discarded the rude surroundings of his village and has plunged headlong into a city where he gets higher wages than he used to. Lastly, there is the cultivator, a stationary being from whom the spirit of the times and the genius of modern civilization evoke no sympathetic response. He has shown no preference for new implements of agriculture, but plods along as best as he can with his antiquated tools. He is generally in debt and his style of living as regards dress, food, house and furniture is much the same as it was 20 years ago”.

During the half century since Major Erskine recorded his observations, the general standard of living of the town dweller has made little progress. In fact, since the start of the second World War, due to the phenomenal rise in prices those in the fixed income groups have become worse off than they were 25 years ago. Very few clerks can afford a full-time servant, as was the case in Erskine's time, and almost the entire income is spent on the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. At the same time, the years have brought about changes in fashion. Western-type clothes have become popular among men, furnishings and decorations have changed and the consumption pattern has altered with the introduction of a variety of consumer goods. In the rural areas, the agriculturists are perhaps better off than before due to the new tenancy laws and the benefits brought about by the community development programme. As they are primary producers, the general rise in prices has not affected them to the extent that it has the fixed wage earners.

No family budget survey has ever been conducted in the area, but in 1951 the Reserve Bank did conduct a survey of rural credit. According to its Report, all families reported expenditure on the

purchase of cloth, shoes, bedding, etc. 9.9 per cent families on marriages and other ceremonies, 7.8 per cent on the purchase of household utensils, furniture etc., 6.7 per cent on construction and repair of residential and other buildings, 4.2 per cent on medical expenses, 2.8 per cent on litigation charges and 2.1 per cent on educational expenses.

The break-up of these reporting families as between cultivators and non-cultivators was as follows:—

Item	% reporting expenditure	
	Cultivators	Non-cultivators
1. Purchase of clothing shoes, bedding etc. ..	100	99.5
2. Construction and repair of residential houses and other buildings .. .. .	6.4	10.9
3. Purchase of household utensils, furniture, etc. ..	7.3	13.3
4. Death ceremonies .. .. .	2.0	2.6
5. Marriage and other ceremonies .. .. .	10.6	2.6
6. Medical expenses .. .. .	4.4	2.6
7. Education expenses .. .. .	1.7	5.9
8. Litigation charges .. .. .	3.1	..

Cultivators were found to spend 54.5 per cent of their average expenditure (Rs. 366) on the purchase of consumer goods, 35.1 per cent on death, marriage and other ceremonies, 5.4 per cent on education, litigation and medicine and the remaining 5 per cent on the construction and repair of houses and other buildings. On the other hand, non-cultivators, with an average expenditure of Rs. 182, spent 3 per cent on the construction and repair of residential and other buildings, 82.7 per cent on the purchase of consumer goods, 6.3 per cent on death, marriage and other ceremonies and 8 per cent on medicine, education and litigation.

### Employment

As stated earlier, agriculture is the principal occupation. Other occupations have also been dealt with earlier in this chapter. On the whole, it may be said that, with the increase in small industry in the towns, there is some movement away from agriculture as a means of livelihood, but the trend is not as yet very pronounced.

*Employment Exchanges:* There is no separate employment exchange in the district. Barmer, along with six other districts, comes under the jurisdiction of the employment exchange at Jodhpur. Since the Jodhpur office does not maintain separate records for each district, it is not possible to assess the extent to which people seek work through the exchange. Unemployment and under-employment are, however, major problems.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### Community Development

The Community Development Programme was started in the district in 1954 with the opening of a development block in the eastern tehsil of Siwana. Since then the programme has steadily expanded so that the entire rural population has now been covered. In October 1959, the community development programme was merged into the wider scheme of democratic decentralization, the main object of which is to enable the people to draw up and implement development schemes for their own areas. The main features of democratic decentralization have been described elsewhere; it would be sufficient to observe here that, to enable the panchayat samities to function effectively, the Block Development Officers (each samiti area coincides with what was formerly known as development block) have been attached to them and they are also assisted by technical personnel (Extension Officers) in the fields of industry, agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operation etc.

*Siwana:* The Siwana development block, the oldest in the district, was inaugurated as a National Extension Service block on October, 2, 1954. It was converted into a First Stage block on April 1, 1956 and on April 1, 1959, into a Second Stage block. This is the only full-fledged community development block in the district.

The block (now panchayat samiti area) covers about 61,000 persons in all 89 villages of Siwana tehsil, an area of 760 square miles. The headquarters are connected to important places in the district by road. The nearest railway station is Mokalsar, on the Samdari-Raniwara line, eight miles away.

By the end of 1960-61, in the field of agriculture and irrigation, 19,068 maunds of improved wheat and *bajra* seed, 1,393 improved iron ploughs, three seed drillers, 12 mote wheels besides other agricultural implements had been distributed, 2,744 compost pits

had been dug, 52,351 maunds of manure prepared, 384 *kachha* and *pucca* wells constructed, 101 wells repaired, 10 pumping sets installed, 4,000 ft. of channels dug, 12,208 acres of land bunded and 4,376 acres had been reclaimed. A total of 1,140 agricultural demonstrations had been organized. In order to improve livestock breeds, 35 bulls and 62 rams had been supplied to breeders.

In the field of co-operation, two credit co-operatives, 41 industrial co-operatives and ten joint farming societies had been formed.

In order to improve water supply, 103 new drinking water wells had been constructed and 90 wells renovated. Fifty-six literacy centres had been started as well as a reading room and library at headquarters. New types of smokeless *chulhas* (cooking ranges) were tried on an experimental basis and a total of 12 had been installed by the end of March 1961.

*Shiv:* The Shiv block was inaugurated as an N.E.S. block on October 2, 1956 and became a First Stage block in April, 1958. It extends over an area of 2,448 square miles covering 74 villages with a population of 45,000. There is a gravel road from Barmer to Shiv. The nearest railway station is Barmer, 32 miles away.

Progress in this block up to the end of 1960-61 has also been encouraging. In the sphere of agriculture, 1,426 manuds of *bajra* seed and 2.20 maunds of groundnut seed had been distributed, bunding of fields had been completed over 150 acres and 14 *tankas* had been constructed.

The emphasis in this area is on animal husbandry since the tract is arid and there is very little agriculture. Thus, as many as 15 private cattle breeding farms and nine sheep breeding farms have been established. The Department had supplied 14 bulls and 74 rams to private breeders by the end of 1960-61. In the field of public health, 13 drinking water wells and 14 *tankas* had been constructed. The number of co-operative societies in existence on March 31, 1961 was 29, with a membership of 820. Under education and social welfare schemes, four youth clubs, 36 primary schools, two middle schools and a *mahila mandal* were established. There was also a training centre for handloom weaving where 10 students were trained.

*Pachpadra:* The Pachpadra block was sanctioned as a pre-extension block on June 1, 1958. The headquarters are at the sub-

divisional town of Balotra, which is an important junction on the Jodhpur-Barmer-Munabao line. The block was converted into a First Stage block on April 1, 1959. It covers 159 villages with a population of 71,865 and an area of 1,324 square miles of Pachpadra tehsil.

By the end of 1960-61, 580 maunds of improved *bajra* seed, 100 iron ploughs and 20 seed drillers had been distributed under the agricultural improvement plan. Also, 19 *kachha* and 16 *pucca* wells had been constructed and 14 *kachha* and 17 *pucca* wells repaired, nine pumping sets and 17 persian wheels installed, 287 acres of land reclaimed and bunding completed on 2,704 acres. For animal husbandry improvement, 15 cattle breeding farms, 24 sheep breeding farms and a sheep shearing shed had been established, 25,441 animals castrated, 35,095 animals vaccinated and 6,990 treated for various diseases. Under the public health and social welfare schemes, 2,199 patients had been treated, 146 wells disinfected, 14 drinking water wells constructed and six repaired and 52 literacy centres and 21 reading rooms had been established. Fourteen youth clubs had been organized. In order to improve communications, two miles of *kachha* road had been constructed and improvements effected on 17 miles of existing road. In the field of industries and co-operation, 20 brick kilns had been started and three credit and multi-purpose co-operative societies, six industrial societies and a joint farming society established.

*Gura Mallani*: The Gura Mallani block, covering parts of Barmer and Chohtan tehsils, was formed as a pre-extension block on June 1, 1959, and was converted into a First Stage block on April 1, 1960. The block covers an area of 1,037 square miles in 104 villages and a population of 70,473. Gura Mallani village is connected by road to Barmer. The nearest railway station is Baitu, 46 miles away.

By 31st March, 1961, 1,165 maunds and 35 seers of improved seeds (besides about 10 mds. of cotton seed) had been distributed, an area of 3,416 acres brought under irrigation, two pumping sets and 3 *rahats* installed, 80 compost pits dug, 72 maunds and 26 seers of compost distributed, 3,397 fruit trees and 5,336 shady trees planted and a total of Rs. 67,100 given in irrigation loans.

In the field of animal husbandry, three poultry farms, having a total of 158 birds and eight sheep breeding farms with 257 sheep had also been opened. A total of 27,286 animals had been vaccinated

As a part of public health activities, a primary health centre and five dispensaries (at Gura Mallani, Bheemaja, Dhorimana, Bapdala and Dhudu, respectively) were opened. Fifty drinking water wells were constructed and 583 disinfected. Small-pox vaccinations numbered 1,656. Sixty first aid boxes were given to various panchayats.

In the field of education, 66 primary schools (with 2,156 boys and 161 girls on the rolls) were functioning. There were also two middle schools at Dhorimana and Gura Mallani. Seven *mahila mandals*, 12 youth clubs and 15 *hijajan mandals* had been established. Adult education centres educated 1,012 adults. An information centre was also opened at Gura Mallani.

At the end of the Second Plan period there were 51 co-operative societies in the area with a total membership of 2,717, a working capital of Rs. 27,37,720 and a share capital of Rs. 49,77,250.

*Chohtan:* The Chohtan block was established as a Shadow block in October 2, 1959 when the scheme of democratic decentralization came into being. The nearest railway station is Barmer, 31 miles away. The block and panchayat samiti covers an area of 1,271 square miles and a population of 87,600 in 111 villages.

As the block lies in an arid zone, there is little scope for agricultural improvement. However, 300 acres of land had been brought under irrigation and a sum of about Rs. 10,000 spent on irrigation schemes (including loans) up to the end of the Second Plan. Four seed drills had also been distributed, 11 compost pits dug, 3,000 maunds of improved *bajra* seed distributed and 500 acres of land brought under *kara bandi*. About 2,000 shady trees were also planted. Loans totalling Rs. 47,850 were distributed for the purchase of oxen to 175 agriculturists.

Under the water supply scheme, a sum of Rs. 61,350 had been spent, benefitting 40 villages.

Progress was made in the field of co-operation also. At the end of the Second Plan period there were 23 agricultural multi-purpose societies, three village service societies, five sheep-breeding societies, three weavers' co-operative societies, a leather dyers' co-operative and a co-operative godown with a membership of 1,671. A sum of more than Rs. 1 lakh had been advanced in loans to these societies by the end of 1960-61.

In the field of education, 21 new primary schools, a middle school and a higher secondary school had been opened. Under the social welfare programme Rs. 500 had been distributed by way of scholarships to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes; a total of Rs. 3,000 was given to Bhils and Meghwals as subsidies for buying bulls.

*Baitu:* The Baitu block also was established on October 2, 1959 in a part of Barmer tehsil and is still in the Shadow stage. Baitu is a station on the Jodhpur-Barmer-Munabao line and is also accessible by road. The total area of the panchayat samiti is 1,312 square miles and it covers 53,901 persons in 78 villages. Under the animal husbandry improvement programme, 72 animals had been castrated by the end of 1960-61 and 830 treated for various ailments. In the field of social welfare and public health, four drinking water wells had been repaired, five schools started and a new school building constructed, 21 social education centres had been opened and two clubs organized. In the sphere of co-operation, 20 service co-operatives, an industrial co-operative and a co-operative farming society had been established. A co-operative store had also been opened.

*Barmer:* The Barmer Shadow block was sanctioned on October 2, 1959 and was converted into a Pre-extension block on May 1, 1960. It covers an area of 1,411 square miles and a population of 56,836 in 139 villages. In the sphere of agriculture and irrigation, five wells had been constructed by the end of 1960-61, three *tankas* built, 10 wells deepened, *kana-bandhi* completed on 12,170 acres of land, 20,250 *khejra* trees planted, 7,000 acres treated against the rat menace, 400 maunds of improved seed distributed, and Rs. 2 lakh distributed as short-term loans through co-operatives. For animal husbandry improvement, 1,281 animals had been castrated, 4,591 treated and 1,500 vaccinated. Loans worth Rs. 26,000 had been granted to cattle breeding farms and Rs. 16,000 to sheep breeding farms. Under social welfare and similar programmes, a total of Rs. 4,356 had been given to persons belonging to the backward classes as loans for bulls, wells and education, 15 new schools had been opened, 21 adult education centres established and 20 youth clubs organized.

*Sindhari:* The Sindhari block also was established on October 2, 1959 and, like Baitu, covers a part of Barmer tehsil. Sindhari lies on the road from Barmer to Balotra and is 32 miles

from the latter railway station. By the end of 1960-61, 50 manuds of wheat seed had been distributed, 16 compost pits dug, nine iron ploughs, a seed driller and 18 chaff-cutters distributed and 10 agricultural demonstrations carried out. An additional 100 acres of land had been brought under irrigation and *kana-bandi* completed over 700 acres. For animal husbandry improvement, a cattle breeding farm and three sheep breeding farms had been opened and about 40,000 animals vaccinated. Under the health, sanitation and social welfare programme, seven drinking water wells had been constructed, five old wells renovated, three new schools started and eight school buildings constructed. A total of 29 social education centres and three clubs had been opened. In the field of co-operation, 20 multi-purpose and service co-operatives and three industrial co-operatives had been established.

### Planning

During the first Plan period, development activities were undertaken in all spheres, but in the preliminary stage progress was slow due to shortage of funds. Moreover, district offices to handle these schemes only began to be established towards the end of the Plan period. Some of the activities undertaken were as follows:

The Public Works Department constructed half a mile of bitumenized road at a cost of Rs. 16,700 and 202 miles of gravel road at a cost of Rs. 9,28,428.

The Education Department opened a multi-purpose school, two high schools, seven middle schools, 103 primary schools and a separate school for girls.

The Medical and Health Department opened a dispensary and a medical aid post.

The Social Welfare Department opened a number of craft and social education centres and granted subsidies and scholarships to members of the backward classes.

Among miscellaneous works, the Barmer municipal committee was granted a loan of Rs. 4½ lakhs for expansion of the power house and work was started on a 20-mile forest belt from Gadra Road to Girab.

*Second Plan:* Progress in the Second Five Year Plan was much more marked as by 1956-57 the necessary development



machinery had been established in the district and larger funds were available. The table below shows Plan expenditure in the district under various heads during the first three years:

Sector	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Agriculture .. .. .	..	1.08	2.44
Consolidation of holdings .. ..	..	..	..
Animal Husbandry .. .. .	0.04	0.10	0.20
Forest and Soil conservation .. ..	..	..	0.18
Irrigation .. .. .	..	..	..
Co-operation .. .. .	0.01	0.21	0.58
Community Development and N.E.S. ..	2.42	4.44	5.34
Industries .. .. .	0.40	0.79	1.52
Roads .. .. .	1.41	0.26	5.33
Education .. .. .	0.19	1.49	5.17
Medical and Public Health .. ..	..	0.34	0.09
Ayurveda .. .. .	0.05	0.10	0.21
Water Supply .. .. .	1.39	0.08	0.78
Housing .. .. .	..	..	0.58
Labour .. .. .	..	..	..
Social Welfare .. .. .	0.07	0.07	0.03
Publicity .. .. .	..	..	0.04
Statistics .. .. .	..	..	0.02
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>5.98</b>	<b>8.96</b>	<b>22.51</b>

The first year of the Plan period was spent largely on work of an organizational nature and, apart from the spheres of community development, road-building and water supply, progress was rather slow, the total expenditure on Plan schemes being only Rs. 5.98 lakhs. In the succeeding years, expenditure was stepped up considerably with the result that the total at the end of three years was Rs. 37.45 lakhs, or approximately 0.7 per cent of the total Plan expenditure in the whole of Rajasthan during the same period. Of this amount, Rs. 12.20 lakhs or about one-third was spent on Community Development and the National Extension Service, followed by Communications (Rs. 7 lakhs), Education (Rs. 6.85 lakhs) and Agriculture and allied subjects (Rs. 4.04 lakhs). The total expenditure on Industries was Rs. 2.7 lakhs, on water supply Rs. 2.25 lakhs and Rs. 0.80 were spent on the co-operative movement. Medical and Public Health activities, including Ayurveda, claimed Rs. 0.79 lakhs. Physical targets were exceeded in several sectors, notably in the case of Agriculture and Co-operation.

Some of the detailed achievements in the sphere of Agriculture by the end of the Plan period were as follows:

In the field of minor irrigation, 88 wells were constructed and 36 pumping sets and 44 persian wheels installed. The respective targets were 20 wells, 12 pumping sets and 26 persian wheels.

The targets and achievements as regards the distribution of fertilizers were as follows:—

						(Figures in tons)	
						Distribution	Target
Ammonium Sulphate	..	..	..	..	..	23	15
Urea	..	..	..	..	..	13	6
Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate	..	..	..	..	..	15	7
C. A. N.	..	..	..	..	..	9	7

The quantities of improved seeds distributed were as follows:

						(Maunds)	
Wheat	..	..	..	..	..	8,647	
Jowar	..	..	..	..	..	150	
Bajra	..	..	..	..	..	4,694	

A seed multiplication farm was started at Samdari and two seed stores were set up. Soil conservation activities were carried out on 1,547 acres of land and 1,180 acres were treated with rat poison. Forty-one improved agricultural implements were distributed.

The following year-wise statement of targets and achievements of the Co-operative Department also shows that progress was more than satisfactory in that sphere:

1957-58						Target	Achievement
Organization of small size agricultural credit societies						30	42
1958-59							
Marketing societies	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Large size societies	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Central Co-operative Bank	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Medium size co-operatives	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Small size agricultural credit societies	..	..	..	..	..	40	41

## 1959-60

Revialization of small size agricultural societies	..	30	30
Organization of agricultural societies	.. ..	65	79
Marketing societies	.. ..	1	1
Joint farming societies	.. ..	2	2
Construction of godowns for small size agricultural societies		4	4
Godowns for marketing societies	.. ..	2	2

## 1960-61

Revitalization of small size societies	.. ..	35	35
Organization of agricultural credit societies	.. ..	45	40
Marketing societies	.. ..	1	1
Land mortgage bank	.. ..	1	1
Rural godowns	.. ..	2	..
Godowns for marketing societies	.. ..	1	..

A co-operative housing society was established with a membership of 44. The society was granted a loan of Rs. 1,44,000 in 1958-59 and a further Rs. 50,000 during 1959-60.

The Public Works Department completed 38 ½ miles of the gravelled State Highway from Barmer to Chhitalwana (71 miles) by January, 1961 as against the total Plan target of 34½ miles. In the case of gravel road from Chawa to Phalsund also, 33 ½ miles were completed by January, 1961 against a target of 25 miles. By the same date, 20 miles of the 71 mile road from Barmer to Balotra had been bitumenized.

Important Plan activities of the other Departments may be summarized as follows:

The Education Department opened two higher secondary schools, 15 middle schools, 211 primary schools, 45 primary schools were converted into Basic schools and opened a Basic S. T. C. School.

The Ayurvedic Department opened three dispensaries.

The Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department opened a dispensary at Chohtan and wool grading centres at Shiv, Barmer and Balotra.

The Social Welfare Department continued its subsidy and scholarship programme and gave subsidies totalling Rs. 12,600 to 36 Gadia Lohar families and Rs. 6,500 to Bhils for house construction. Scholarships worth Rs. 4,145 were given and a sum of Rs. 3,100 was spent for providing light and water facilities for the Scheduled Castes.

In order to improve rural water supply, a sum of Rs. 4,03,351 was spent on the construction of 107 drinking water wells, repairs to 222 wells and construction of 22 *tankas* during the years 1956-57 and 1957-58. The scheme was continued in 1958-59 and 39 works costing Rs. 1,15,954 were completed. During 1959-60, a sum of Rs. 2,60,000 was sanctioned for 23 works. A pipe-line water supply scheme for Pachpadra costing Rs. 5 lakhs was in progress at the end of the Plan period.

The Low Income Group housing scheme was initiated in the district in 1958-59; by the end of 1960-61, 11 persons had been granted loans totalling Rs. 46,400.

## CHAPTER IX

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

#### Historical Background

Before the formation of Rajasthan, this area roughly comprised four parganas of Jodhpur State—Barmer, Shiv, Pachpadra and Siwana. As each pargana was governed by an official with the designation of *Hakim*, they were also known as *hakumats*.

The *Hakims* were both Revenue and Judicial Officers. They were directly responsible to the Darbar and had no dealings with each other. They could try civil suits not exceeding Rs. 500/- (with the permission of the Civil Court up to Rs. 1,000/-) in value and in criminal cases could impose sentences of imprisonment up to four months, fines up to Rs. 200/- and whipping not exceeding six stripes. The *Mahakma Khas* (Council of Ministers) at Jodhpur exercised full powers of revision and control over all the subordinate courts and was the highest judicial tribunal in the State. It was the final court of appeal in both civil and criminal cases, though references were occasionally made to, or called for by the Darbar Office.

In January, 1949 when the present Barmer district was formed and placed in the charge of a Deputy Commissioner, the *Hakims* were redesignated Tehsildars. Later, on March 20, 1949 Jodhpur State was merged into Rajasthan and the designation of Deputy Commissioner was changed to that of Collector and District Magistrate.

Up to the end of 1960-61, the administrative authority of the district was the Divisional Commissioner, whose headquarters were at Jodhpur. Since then the post of Commissioner has been abolished, with the result that the responsibility of the Collector has increased.

The Collector is, in addition to his revenue duties, also District Magistrate and District Development Officer. Since the start of the First Plan period, development activities have taken up an increasing amount of his time and although, in October, 1959 a new system of local self-government was introduced in order to give the people an

opportunity to be intimately associated with development work, the Collector periodically attends meetings of the panchayat samities and all meetings of the Zila Parishad, so that co-ordination between the local bodies and the executive officers is assured.

Thus the Collector remains an important figure in the sphere of development work. At the same time, the collection of revenue continues to occupy a great deal of his time. He is not only to supervise the working of the Revenue Officers but is also a Court of Appeal. As a District Magistrate he is responsible for law and order along with the Superintendent of Police. Besides this, the Collector has wide powers under several Acts, which enable him to keep a firm grip on the administration of the district.

Directly subordinate to the Collector in the vertical line of administration are the Sub-Divisional Officers stationed at Barmer and Balotra. The Sub-Division of Barmer comprises the tehsils of Barmer, Shiv and Chohtan and Balotra Sub-Division the tehsils of Pachpadra and Siwana. The tehsil of Chohtan was created only in 1954 and comprises some areas of the former Barmer tehsil and the police station areas of Sedwa and Bhakasar, which were formerly part of Jalore District. Each Sub-Divisional Officer in his own jurisdiction has revenue, magisterial and executive powers. These Officers work in close consultation with the Collector and relieve his burden to a great extent.

Under the Sub-Divisional Officers are the five Tehsildars, who are assisted by Naib-Tehsildars. Each of these Officers has similar functions in his area. Each tehsil is sub-divided into *girdawar* circles, each in the charge of an official called a *Kanungo* or Revenue Inspector. The *girdawar* circles are further sub-divided into *patwar halkas*, this being the basic unit of administration. The *Patwari* maintains the land registers and is also required to report any untoward happening in his area. The actual collection of land revenue is at present done through commission agents known as *chaudharies*. A fuller description of this pattern is found in the chapter on Revenue Administration.

In former times the emphasis in district administration was on the collection of revenue and maintenance of law and order. Though these are still important, the main stress has shifted to development work and thus the Welfare Departments are now playing

a very important role in the district administration. While the Collector, S.D.O., Tehsildar, etc., lie in the vertical line of administration, what may be called the horizontal line of administration comprises the Collector and his fellow District Officers in charge of Education, Agriculture, Irrigation, Industries, Public Works, etc. A District Level Officers' meeting is held about once a month, at which policies and work programmes are discussed and plans drawn up for future action. The Collector presides at these meetings and discusses with the District Officers the programmes of the panchayat samitis.

Of special importance in the administration is the police hierarchy, which is described in detail in another chapter. The Superintendent of Police and the Collector work in close consultation in order to maintain law and order. As far as judicial matters are concerned, the highest authority in the district is the District and Sessions Judge, who exercises supervision over the work of all courts.

The following is a list of district officers of the Rajasthan Government not included in the hierarchical line of administration:—

- (1) District and Sessions Judge
- (2) Superintendent of Police
- (3) Commanding Officer, R.A.C.
- (4) Deputy Collector, Jagir
- (5) Assistant Engineer, P.W.D.
- (6) Inspector of Schools
- (7) District Social Education Officer
- (8) District Agriculture Officer
- (9) District Industries Officer
- (10) Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies
- (11) Assistant Commissioner, Excise and Taxation
- (12) Public Relations Officer
- (13) Treasury Officer
- (14) Medical Officer, Malaria Eradication Programme
- (15) District Animal Husbandry Officer
- (16) Welfare Inspector

## Staffing Pattern

The work programmes of these district heads have been discussed in the relevant chapters. It would not, however, be out of place here to say something regarding the set up of some of the bigger offices.

The work of the Collectorate is divided among the following 10 Sections—Nazarat, Development, Judicial, D.R.A. (District Revenue Accountant), Revenue, Records, Panchayats, Election, Famine and Supplies. The clerical staff consists of an Office Superintendent, a Stenographer, 12 Upper Division Clerks and 18 Lower Division Clerks plus an Inspector in the Supplies Section.

There is a separate office of a Deputy Collector (Jagir), which has four U.D.Cs., five L.D.Cs., two Accounts Clerks and two Auditors. A considerable amount of work has to be done in the district in connection with the implementation of the Resumption of Jagirs Act, hence the need for a number of clerks.

The Sub-Divisional Officers stationed at Barmer and Balotra each have office staff consisting of a Reader and three L. D. Cs.

The District Industries Office has three sections; the Direction and Superintendence Section is manned by one U. D. C. and one L.D.C., the Inspection and Stamping (Handloom) Section by an Inspector and an L. D. C. and the Designing Extension Centre, Barmer, has a Designer, a Printing and Dyeing Master, a Block Maker, a Printing Assistant, a Dyeing Assistant and an L. D. C.-cum-Storekeeper.

The Treasury Office, Barmer, has a sanctioned strength of an Accountant, two Accounts clerks, three U.D.Cs. and three L.D.Cs.

The Office of the Superintendent of Police has three branches with a Head Clerk in charge. The Accounts Branch has an Accounts clerk of the grade of U.D.C. and a Bill Clerk, a Cashier (Office) and a Cashier (Lines), all of the grade of L.D.C. The Force Branch is staffed by a Force Clerk (U.D.C.), and the General Branch has a Correspondence Clerk (U.D.C.), and an Assistant Correspondence Clerk, a Records Clerk, a Typist, a Receipt Clerk and a Despatch Clerk, all of the grade of L.D.C. There is also one post of L.D.C. as a leave reserve.



The Commandant, 2nd. Bn., R.A.C. has in his office ministerial staff consisting of an Accountant, three U.D.Cs. and four L.D.Cs. The actual strength of the Unit is described elsewhere.

The Inspector of Schools has a Deputy Inspector, one U.D.C. and one L.D.C. In addition, six L.D.Cs. of the government middle schools are utilized in the office. The District Social Education Officer has an establishment consisting of a Deputy Education Officer and two L.D.Cs.

The Assistant Commissioner, Excise and Taxation, has a staff consisting of an Assistant Sales Tax Officer, one Sales Tax Inspector and three Excise Inspectors, three U.D.Cs., 11 L.D.Cs. and two Moharrirs.

The Office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operatives, has jurisdiction also over the district of Jaisalmer. The staff, besides the Assistant Registrar, consists of eight Executive Inspectors, 10 Audit Inspectors, a Technical Assistant, two Upper Division Clerks and three Lower Division Clerks. The technical staff are posted with the various panchayat samities.

A District Agricultural Officer was posted at Barmer soon after the merger, but later the office was shifted to Jalore with jurisdiction over both districts. With the stepping up of agricultural operations under the second Plan, a separate office was reopened in Barmer in June, 1957. Four Agriculture Extension Officers were posted in the development blocks of Siwana, Pachpadra, Sindhari and Gura Mullani, respectively. These postings continue, and since the formation of the panchayat samities, one Fieldman has been posted with each samiti to promote agriculture on scientific lines. Siwana also has a Compost Inspector. The District Agriculture Officer, who is posted at Barmer, has an office staff consisting of an Agriculture Assistant, two Fieldmen (one for cotton) and two Plant Protection Mukaddams, besides two U.D.Cs. and an L.D.C.

The staff of the office of the District Animal Husbandry Officer consists of a U.D.C. and an L.D.C. The veterinary hospitals at Barmer, Balotra and Siwana each have a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon besides compounders, stockmen and dressers; dispensaries at Chohtan and Shiv are supervised by Animal Husbandry Extension Officers. The Sheep and Wool Development Scheme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is supervised by an official with

the designation of Superintendent. His office came into existence on May 30, 1959.

The above descriptions of the staffing patterns in various offices do not take account of auxiliary categories of staff, such as Class IV employees.

## CHAPTER X

### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

#### LAND REVENUE

##### Historical Aspect

In the early period, when the Rashtrakutas, Pratiharas, Panwars and Chalukyas ruled over this tract, land revenue was charged according to the Dharma Shastras, the rates generally varying from one-sixth to one-twelfth of the produce.

In mediæval times, largely as a result of frequent wars and foreign invasions, a feudal system came into existence with the relatives and close associates of the Chief ruler being established as *jagirdars*. Thus the Jasol, Sindhari, Barmer and Chohtan areas became *jagirs* for the descendants of Mallinath. Other *jagir* areas were Shiv, Siwana, Gura Mallani and Nagar. In the Ain-i-Akbari, Mhewa (Sindhari and Jasol) is mentioned as a Mahal of Jodhpur Sarkar with a revenue of 9,60,000 dams. Similarly, Siwana was a Mahal with a revenue of 12 lakh dams. The *jagirdars* of Mallani acknowledged the sovereignty of the Marwar Darbar, but, as descendants of the conqueror of Marwar regarded themselves in a special position. In practice, the Jodhpur ruler had little control over them and even the *faujba* or military tribute, which in theory they were obliged to pay, was seldom realized. Marwar came under British protection in 1818 and some years later (1836) it was found necessary to post a British Superintendent at Barmer to keep the *jagirdars* in line. It was not, however, till 1849 that the area was firmly cemented to Marwar State.

In both the *jagir* and *khalsa* areas, land revenue was till the closing years of the 19th century, usually paid in kind. There were several methods by which the share of the produce was realized. The most prevalent system was that of *latai* or *batai*, under which the produce was collected near the village and measured or weighed. The share taken by the landlord (or the State) varied from one-fifth to one-half in the case of dry crops and from one-sixth to one-third

in the case of wet crops; it was greater for dry crops because they cost less to cultivate and yielded better and more valuable fodder, of which no share was ordinarily claimed. Allied to this system was that of *kanta*, where the share was calculated by guess and not by actual weighing; a variation of this was *kankar kanta*, under which the produce was estimated while the crops were still standing. Other systems were: *mukatta*, a fixed rate per field, realized in cash; *dori*, a fixed rate per measured bigha, paid in cash or kind, and *ghugri*, a fixed quantity of grain per well or per field, or a quantity equal in amount to the seed sown (*bij ghugi*).

### First Settlement

A village boundary survey and a cadastral survey of the *khalsa* villages in the state was carried out for the first time under the supervision of the Assistant Resident, Major Loch, between 1883 and 1893. Village maps and records of rights were prepared, soils classified and crop experiments made. Settlement operations were conducted from 1894 to 1896. For assessment purposes, the areas dealt with were divided into two groups, namely (a) secure or nearly so, i.e., irrigated by wells or tanks, where the yearly out-turn varied little and remissions of revenue were necessary only in seasons of dire famine, and (b) insecure or totally dependent on the rainfall. In the former case the assessment was fixed and in the latter it fluctuated in proportion to the actual out-turn. The standard by which circle rates were calculated was the amount formerly received by the Darbar both in cash and kind, including cesses, from a particular type of land. The gross yield was estimated from the results of crop experiments, supplemented by local enquiries, and thus it was possible to deduce the average rates that should be applied in assessing individual holdings, *chahi* (irrigated) areas were classed according to their relative values and *barani* (unirrigated) areas according to the nature of the soil.

The rates per acre for *chahi* land varied from Rs. 2-5-6 to Rs. 10 (average Rs. 2-10-6) and those for *barani* land from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  annas (average  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas). Only two cesses were levied, namely *malba* (for village expenses) and *chaudharbab* (for the remuneration of the Chaudharis); these nowhere exceeded  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the revenue demand and in most cases amounted to much less.

This first regular Settlement of *khalsa* land in Marwar was carried out in 566 villages; there is, however, no clear record as to how many of these fell within the confines of the present Barmer

district. When the Revised Settlement was conducted in the 1920, there were only 16 *khalsa* villages out of a total of 104 in Pachpadra pargana, 15 out of 88 in Siwana, only one out of 502 in Mallani and eight out of 74 in Shiv pargana. These figures, for reasons explained later, differed from those during the original Settlement, but they do indicate clearly the overwhelming preponderance of the *non-khalsa* villages. In *khalsa* villages not covered by the settlement operations, and in *jagir* areas, land revenue continued to be collected on the *latai* system or according to a method known as *ank-bandi*, where an estimate of the probable out-turn was made a lump sum payment (in cash) fixed for the year.

### Second Settlement

The original Settlement was to have lasted only for 10 years, after which it was proposed to set right defects that had appeared in its working. However, it was not till 1918 that a decision was taken to order a re-settlement of *khalsa* villages and the operations themselves began only in 1921 and lasted till 1926.

The Second Settlement was conducted by Mr. D. L. Drake Brockman, Settlement Officer and Revenue Member of the Jodhpur Government. Two of his innovations are noteworthy; he drew up a set of rules defining the rights and liabilities of *bapidars* (long-term tenants) and he based the new rent rates on a division of land into *mustaqil* (permanent) and *ghair mustaqil* (non-permanent) areas. *Mustaqil* land was that which was capable of continuous and profitable cultivation and would therefore bear reasonable rent. The rates for *ghair mustaqil* land were much lower and fixed so that, even if taken on long-term lease, the tenant would feel no hardship if he were to cultivate it as little as he liked in unfavourable seasons.

The soils were classified as *chahi* (well irrigated), *nehri* (canal or channel irrigated), *sewaj* (loam or clay), *kachhar* (alluvium) and *barani*; the division of these into the permanent and non-permanent categories depended to some extent on their relative values. In the first was included all first and second class *jaos* (areas served by wells), the best *nehri* lands, superior *kachhar* lands, the most favoured *sewaj* lands in irrigated tracts and exceptionally well situated *barani* lands. In the non-permanent category was included all inferior varieties of irrigated or irrigable land and more than 90 per cent of *barani* land.

The term of the Second Settlement expired in 1935. Revision of the rent rates was taken up in 1938-39 and completed in 1945-46.

In general, the principles introduced in the 1921-26 Settlement were followed.

### System of Collection

The unit of revenue administration was the village or group of villages under a hawaldar. In the whole state there were 251 such units grouped under 18 *daroghas* or *girdawars*. The work of *girdawari* and preparation of other village records was done by the hawaldar, who was directly responsible to the *darogha*. The collection of revenue was effected through the agency of *amins* controlled by the Hakims or Pargana Officers. At the state headquarters, the Land Revenue Department was under a Superintendent, assisted by five Assistant Superintendents, each of the latter in charge of a group of parganas.

### Jagir Lands

As stated earlier, *khalsa* lands occupied a very small percentage of the total area of the district. Other land was held according to a variety of tenures, the chief ones being as follows:

*Bhumichara*, a tenure on which Rajputs whose ancestors held land prior to the Rathor conquest enjoyed their estates. These persons (in this district mainly the Thakurs of Mallani) had merely to pay a small sum of money to the Darbar as *faujbal* (military tribute). Treason against the State or the commission of a heinous crime along could justify the resumption of an estate held on this tenure. The issue of a *patta* on succession was not necessary.

The *faujbal* paid to the Darbar in individual cases was as follows:—

Jasol .. .. .	Rs. 2,100/-
Barmer .. .. .	Rs. 1,100/-
Sindhari .. .. .	Rs. 1,800/-
Nagar .. .. .	Rs. 302/-
Gura Mallani .. .. .	Rs. 2,530/-
Chohtan .. .. .	Rs. 218/-
Setrau .. .. .	Rs. 132/-
Bisala .. .. .	Rs. 500/-
Sihani .. .. .	Rs. 200/-
Mungeria .. .. .	Rs. 50/-

*Bhum* land was held by *Bhumias* who had to perform certain duties such as protecting the villages, chasing criminals, providing an escort for carriers of government funds and protecting officials

on tour. Some of them paid a quit rent called *bhum bab*. Grants of *Bhum* land were made only by the Darbar and could be conferred even in villages held by *jagirdars*.

*Jivka* was a grant to younger sons of a prince or thakur for their maintenance. After three generations, the holder had to pay a cess (*rekh*) and succession fee and to supply militia like the ordinary *jagirdar*. On the dying out of the lineal descendants of the original grantee, the land reverted to the family of the donor.

If the Darbar was so minded, on the confiscation of a village it would permit the *jagirdar* to retain a few fields just to save him from becoming homeless. This grant was called *Juna jagir*.

*Pasayat* was the name of the tenure on which land was given out by *jagirdars* in lieu of payment for services. No rent was charged from these *Pasaitedars*, but when the holder ceased to render the service required, the land was resumed.

*Inam* was a rent-free grant for services rendered to the State. It lapsed on the failure of the lineal line of the original grantee.

In the *Dumba* tenure, land was made over and brought under cultivation on payment of a permanently fixed rent. No service was required.

In the ordinary *Jagir* tenure the holder had to pay a yearly military cess called *rekh*, which was supposed to be 8 per cent of the gross rental value of the land, and had to supply one horseman for every thousand rupees of revenue, one camel sowar for every 750 rupees or one foot-soldier for every 500 rupees. Towards the end of princely rule, in most places military service (*chakri*) was commuted for cash payment at the rate of Rs. 204 per horseman and Rs. 144 for a camel sowar and Rs. 84/- for a footman. On succession, the holder had to pay *hukumnama* at the rate of 75 per cent of the annual income if the fee was to be paid in cash or to make over his village for one year to *khalsa* for the recovery of the fee. Only when the succession fee had been paid was the *patta* issued. Disobedience to a lawful summons or order involving sequestration and the commission of a grave political offence was punished by confiscation. On the extinction of the male line of the original grantee, the *jagir* escheated to *khalsa*. Charitable grants to

Brahmans, Charans, etc., were called *Sasan* and were held rent-free. When, however, the grant was for a portion of a village or for a certain well or field, it was known as *Doli*. On the extinction of the line of the original grantee, such land reverted to the State.

In the case of *Jaigr* and *Jivka* estates, succession was governed by primogeniture whereas in the other tenures the rule of gavelkind, i.e., equal partition among surviving heirs, was observed. No *jagir* land could be sold and though mortgages did take place, they could not be fore-closed.

The total area of land held under grant varied considerably from decade to decade due to the process of escheat and the bestowal of fresh grants. However, it may be noted that land held according to the *Bhumichara* tenure and also *Sasan* grants never lapsed to the Darbar. In fact, the Jodhpur rulers, once their kingdom had been established never bestowed *Bhumichara* rights, this tenure being a survival of former days.

*Jagirdars* of distinction were styled *Tazimi Sardars*. Their number in the last days of Marwar state was 144, of whom about a dozen were in this area. The *Tazimi Sardars* were divided into three classes according to the degree of recognition which they were entitled to receive from the Maharaja in Darbar; a total of 86 belonged to the first class, 45 to the second and 13 to the third. In the first class were 12 nobles, all Rathors; who were held superior to the rest and called *Saravats*.

The survey and settlement of *jagir* land was left entirely to the landholders themselves. Few took the trouble to have their lands surveyed and a scientific system of rent rates drawn up. As regards the collection of revenue, the landholders were free to take what percentage of the crops they wished, though in practice the share taken in contiguous areas varied little. At the time of the passing of the Marwar Land Revenue Act in 1949, it was found that the landlord's share under the *laxai* or *kanta* system generally ranged from 1/5 to 2/7 of the produce on *barani* land while the rate for *mukatta* (cash rent) was from 4 to 12 annas per bigha. On *chahi* land the share varied from 1/8 to 1/4 of the produce, exclusive of cesses. In the new Act it was laid down that the rent rates should not be more than one-third in the case of *barani* land and one-quarter in the case of irrigated land. Under the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act the share has been fixed at not more than one-sixth.



Apart from rent, the *jagirdars* derived income from the sale of natural produce such as fodder grasses. They were also permitted to sell non-agricultural lands for *patta-imarti*. Cesses also brought them a fair income, but under Section 53 of the Marwar Land Revenue Act (1949) all but four cesses were abolished. The four allowed to be recovered were:—

*Ghasmari*. A grazing cess levied on all domestic animals except cows.

*Malba*. Recovered in cash or kind for village expenses.

*Kharda*. Levied on houses; and

*Mapa*. Levied on the sale of goods taken to other villages.

### PRESENT SETTLEMENT

At the time of the formation of Rajasthan, there had been three Settlements in the *khalsa* areas of the former Jodhpur State. In the areas under *jagirdars* and other landlords, no proper settlement had ever been conducted and the lands had not even been scientifically surveyed since the time of Major Loch. As *khalsa* land constituted but a tiny fraction of the entire area, and in view of the decision to abolish landlordism, it was decided by the Government of Rajasthan in 1951 to carry out a Settlement in the tehsils comprising this district. Accordingly, a cadastral survey was undertaken in 1952.

The Settlement was undertaken roughly tehsil-wise but Barmer tehsil was sub-divided into Barmer East and Barmer West, the former including some villages of Pachpadra tehsil and the latter a part of Chohtan tehsil. Settlement of the remaining part of Chohtan tehsil was conducted along with that of 10 villages of Sanchore tehsil of Jalore District. This overlapping was due to the fact that some of the tehsil boundaries as well as the district boundary with Jalore underwent changes after the scheme had been drawn up.

The area taken up separately for settlement in Pachpadra covered 104 villages, of which 89 were *jagir* villages, 12 *khalsa* and three mushtarka (comprising both *jagir* and *khalsa* land). The *khalsa* villages had already been settled in 1941-42 and it was decided to leave them out of the operations. In the others, the main tenures were *Jagir* (now known as Scheduled) and *Sasan* (re-termed Listed). For assessment purposes, three circles were formed——Plain I, Plain II and sandy. The rates evolved were as follows: *Chahi*

(categories I to IV) Rs. 4/4 for the best land to Rs. 1/12; Sewaj 11 annas to 6 annas; and *Barani* I to III 8 annas to 2 annas. The sanctioned term of the Settlement was 20 years from S. 2011 (1954-55).

The Settlement of Barmer East covered 269 villages in Barmer tehsil and 53 in Pachpadra. Of these, 287 villages were *Jagir* villages and 35 under *Sasan* tenure. There was not a single *khalsa* village in the area and thus this was the first regular Settlement. Two circle were evolved—Sandy I and Sandy II—and the rates were as follows: *Chahi* land Rs. 3 to Rs. 1/2; *Rel* 10 annas to 6 annas; *Sewaj* 5 annas to 4 annas, and *Barani* 3½ annas to 9 pies. As in the case of Pachpadra, the term of the Settlement was 20 years from S. 2011 (1954-55).

Barmer West comprised 183 villages in Barmer and Chohtan tehsils. Only one village—Netriyar—was *khalsa*, 175 being *jagir* villages and seven *Sasan*. For assessment purposes there were two circles—*tiba* (an area of high sand dunes) and *tal-tiba* (also sandy, but less undulating). There being scarcely any irrigation in the area, there was only one soil category—*Barani*—the rates for which varied from 2 annas to 6 pies according to quality. Here also the term of the Settlement was 20 years from 1954-55.

The Chohtan Settlement covered 78 villages of Chohtan tehsil and 10 of Sanchoore tehsil (Jalore District). All the villages were under *Bhomichara* or *Sasan* tenure. As in Barmer West, the circles formed were *tiba* and *tal-tiba* but, owing to the presence of wells along the banks of the Luni, some land was classified as *Chahi*. The rates were as follows: *Chahi* Rs. 1/12 to 8 annas, and *Barani* 2 annas to 6 pies. The Settlement was for 19 years from S. 2013 (1956-57).

The Shiv Settlement coincided with the tehsil boundaries. Of 74 villages, 50 were under *Bhomichara* tenure, 16 *Sasan*, seven *Khalsa* and one *Mushtarka*. Though the number of villages was small, the area covered was large, the revenue village of Sundra alone covering an area of 519 sq. miles. Two circles were formed for assessment purposes—*tharda* (the sandy table-land of the eastern part of the tehsil) and *tiba* (the sandy west). The rates were as follows: *Chahi* (very scarce) Rs. 3 to Rs. 1/2, *khadeen* (*Sewaj*) 7 annas to 4 annas, and *Barani* 2 annas to 3 pies. The term of the Settlement was 10 years from S. 2014 (1957-58).

In Siwana also the Settlement coincided with the tehsil boundaries. Of 89 villages, 73 were *Jagir* or *Sasan*, 13 *Khalsa* and

three *Mushtarka*. Three circles were formed—plain, sub-montane and sandy—and the rates evolved were as follows: *Chahi* Rs. 4/4 to Rs. 1/12; *Sewaj* Re. 1/-, and *Barani* 8 annas to 4 annas. The term of the Settlement was 21 years from S. 2010 (1953-54).

The highest rates for both *Chahi* and *Barani* land naturally prevail in the more favoured tehsils of Siwana and Pachpadra. The lowest rates are in the sandy western portion of the district. In more than 90 per cent of the district this was the first regular Settlement ever conducted.

### System of Collection

Before the formation of Rajasthan, the Department of Land Records of Jodhpur State was part of the Revenue Department, known as Mahakma Hawala. The former system of collection has been described earlier. After the formation of Rajasthan, the Department of Land Revenue was split up into two Departments—the Department of Land Revenue and the Department of Land Records. Later, in 1952, the Department of Land Records was abolished.

The actual collection of land revenue is done by the village Choudhari. He is accompanied by the Patwari, who consults his demand register (*dhal bhanch*) and issues receipts. The Choudhari is entitled to 5 per cent of receipts for performing this function. There is now a proposal to abolish the choudhari or *lambardari* system and entrust the work of collection to the panchayats; experimental action was started in this connection in 1961.

The Patwari maintains the village records of his *halka* and these are examined by Revenue Inspectors. Each Inspector has charge of a circle comprising a number of patwar *halkas*. Above the Circle Inspectors are the Tehsildars and above them the Sub-Divisional Officers. At tehsil headquarters there is an Office Kanungo who looks after the records; the consolidated revenue records of the district are maintained at headquarters by an official called the Sadar Kanungo. The Collector himself is, however, ultimately responsible for their proper maintenance.

### REVENUE UNITS

The following statement shows the number of *Girdawar* (Inspection) circles and Patwar *halkas* in the district:

<i>Tehsil</i>	<i>Girdawar Circles</i>	<i>Patwar Halkas</i>
Barmer	9	91

Shiv	5	20
Chohtan	4	39
Siwana	3	29
Pachpadra	4	35
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>214</b>

The actual locations are as follows:

<i>Tehsil</i>	<i>Girdawar Circles.</i>
Barmer	1. Barmer 2. Bisala 3. Ramsar 4. Dhorimana 5. Nokhra 6. Gura Mallani 7. Sindhari 8. Baitu 9. Gidan.
Shiv	1. Shiv 2. Gadra Road.
Chohtan	1. Chohtan 2. Binjasar 3. Sedwa 4. Bhakasar.
Siwana	1. Siwana North 2. Siwana South 3. Siwana East.
Pachpadra	1. Pachpadra 2. Jasol 3. Kalyanpur 4. Thob

The patwar *halkas* are as follows:

<i>Inspection Circle.</i>	<i>Patwar Halka</i>
Barmer	Ranigaon Mahabar Hathi Tala Barmer Kapuradi Bhadhka Bhurtiya Shirkor Chawa Rawatsar Bandra
Bisala	Indorai Silhani Derasar Nand Jasni Suracharan Bisala Auti Bhadreshgandher Jalipa
Ramsar	Buthai Gogarai Bhidaka Par Pandhi-ka-Par Chadi Khadin Satarau Ramsar Bhachbar Gangala

Inspection Circle.	Patwar Halka
Dhorimana	Sannawara Bhimthal Arniyali Mithura Khurd Ranasar Kalan Dhorimana Dhudhu Lukhu Udasar Loharwa
Nokhra	Surnu Chimanji Sowan Wala Nokhra Mohlu Kagan Sarli Band Adel Sannaita Hodu
Gura Mallani	Gura Mallani Balta Nagar Bhidana Ratanpura Bhakarpura Gadheva Kalan Piparali Sada Khudala
Sindhari	Dhankha Sindhari Bhuka Dandali Kamthai Chhadaki Dhani Koslu Payal Khurd Juna-Mitlakhada Payal Kalan
Baitu	Nosar Kavas Station Baitu Chimanji Baitu Bhimji Kanod Jhak Bataru Kolu Bhimda Akdra
Gidan	Ratau Kasubala Bhaotau Sawau Padamsingh Gidan Hira-ki-Dhani Khokhkar Sahra Parau Kupaliya Chibi

Inspection Circle.	Patwar Halka
Shiv	Sundra (2 patwaris)
Gadra Road	Jaisinghdhar Gadra Road Bhedusar Girab (2 patwaris) Jankali Harsani Balewa Mungeria Shami-ka-gaon Kotada Gunga Rajdal Arang Undu Niyad Shiv Nimbala
Chohtan	Ramjan-ki-Gafan Pinjrad Chohtan Antiya Netrar Taratara Lilsar Isrol Dharasar Sanau
Binjasar	Kelnor Deisar Mithrau Binjasar Konra Alamsar Bisaranian Dhanau Gohar-ka-talla Bamnor
Sedwa	Sedwa Bhawar Sarla Janpalia Bisasar Gangasara Bamlada Kenkar Bhunia Sobhala
Bhakasar	Bhakasar Bhanwaria Hathala Nawathalla Faglia Panuria Jarfa Bhekari Ogala
Siwana South (Siwana)	Thapan Golia

Inspection Circle.	Patwar <i>Halka</i>
Sivana East (Padru)	Mokalsar Bamseen Devandri Siwana Kusip Meli Jethantari Rakhri Ramniya
	Padru Mithora Pau Kundal Dhira Dharna Bhagwa Gura Indarana
Sivana North (Samdari)	Samdari Ajit Ranideshipura Majal Kharantia Kannawas Sewali Khandap Rampura
	Pachpadra Mugra Asotra Parlu Umarlai Blondiawas Kitnod Newai Balora
Kalyanpura	Kalyanpura Dhani Sakhal Kakarala Doli Kalan Asrawa Chohana Sarwadi Mandali Koran
Thob	Thob Simiarkiya Bagawas Thumboli Barnawa Patodi Patodj North Kalewa Bedarlai
	Jasol Tapra Jagea

Inspection Circle.	Patwar <i>Halka</i>
	Kaluwari Tilwara Mewanagar Chandesara Golsoda Sajiali

### Income from Land Revenue

The following statement shows the demand and collection of land revenue in the district in recent years. The increase in the demand is largely due to the abolition of Jagirs:

Year	Demand	Collections	Remissions	Balance.
1954-55	6,57,286	1,36,124	..	5,12,162
1955-56	10,60,638	2,76,489	..	7,84,149
1956-57	14,97,051	7,01,257	..	7,95,794
1957-58	16,30,777	7,40,357	..	8,90,420
1958-59	27,06,891	12,24,319	..	14,82,572
1959-60	29,38,127	17,48,334	..	11,89,793
1960-61	26,73,919	9,17,979	..	17,55,940

## LAND REFORMS

### Position of Tenants

The land rent charged from tenants both of *khalsa* and *jagir* land has been described earlier. Generally speaking, a tenant of *khalsa* land had greater security of tenure than his counterpart on *jagir* land and, his rent being paid in cash, was less open to harassment by revenue collectors. Tenants of *jagir* land, which covered more than 90 per cent of the entire area, led a very precarious existence. They were always open to exploitation by the jagirdars' agents, had no rights whatsoever and could be summarily ejected; there was no appeal to the Darbar, which was interested in the *jagir* estates only to the extent of ensuring that revenue dues were paid. However, so strong were the feudal traditions in the area that there is no record of any agrarian movements to secure a better deal.

That part of *jagir* land which was cultivated by the landlord himself and his family was known as *khudkasht*. Land was also given



out rent-free as described earlier, to *Pasaitedars* in lieu of service to the landlord and some *jagirdars* also had the right to maintain separate grants for their *Chhutbhais* and *Maji*.

For the rest, land was given out on rent, the rates being fixed in such a way that the landlord would, after paying his dues to the Darbar, have sufficient to maintain himself, his family, relatives and agents. Generally, however, the rates applied by different jagirdars in the same locality varied little. In the better agricultural areas, the same families lived as tenants from generation to generation and were only disturbed if they incurred the wrath of the *jagirdar* or his agents. Many of them had sub-tenants. In areas where cultivation was possible only in favourable years, the rates charged were low and land was given out for farming to anyone who would come forward.

In 1949, two important pieces of legislation were brought out in Jodhpur State—The Marwar Land Revenue Act and the Marwar Tenancy Act. The latter for the first time defined the various tenures existing in the area and laid down certain rights of tenants. Tenants were listed as *Khatedars*, *Ghair Khatedars*, *Bapidars*, *Ghair Bapidars* and *Sikmi Kashtkars*. A *Khatedar* was a person who held land from another person or persons and by whom rent was payable on express or implied contract. Every tenant other than a sub-tenant (*Sikmi Kashtkar*), who was not a *Khatedar* was a *Ghair Khatedar*. A person who acquired the right to till unoccupied or waste land was known as a *Bapidar* and one who held land as a tenant from the holder of a survey number was known as a *Sikmi Kashtkar*. Some of the rights of *Khatedars* and *Bapidars* were as under:

The rights of a *Khatedar* or a *Bapidar* were heritable. They could transfer holdings permanently by sale or otherwise to any co-tenant or to a person who, if he survived the tenant, would inherit his rights. No *Khatedar* or *Bapidar* could, however, sub-let the whole or any portion of his holding for a term exceeding three years.

A *Khatedar* was entitled to all grass and natural produce growing on his holding, but was not entitled to sell or otherwise transfer a tree or any timber or to convert the timber of any tree into an article intended for sale or dispose of it to others.

A *Ghair Khatedar* was not permitted to sub-let his holding or any portion thereof for a term exceeding one year. He was entitled to the natural produce and grass of his holding but not entitled to cut any tree or part of a tree. His rights were not heritable.

A sub-tenant who held land from the landlord or a *Khatedar* was not allowed to sub-let the holding.

A person who held land for a limited period or cultivated over from year to year was called a *Ghair Bapidar*. The rights of a *Ghair Bapidar* were heritable in the same manner as those of a *Bapidar* but not transferable and in general the same restrictions were imposed as in the case of *Ghair Khatedars*.

A fuller description of the provisions of these two Acts has been reserved for the Jodhpur District Gazetteer. With the abolition of jagirs and the passing of the Rajasthan Tenancy Act, tenants here now enjoy the same rights as those throughout the State.

### Abolition of Jagirs

Landlordism has been abolished with the implementation of the Rajasthan Land Reforms and Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1952. At the time of the passing of the Act there were in the district only 42 khalsa villages out of a total of 778, excluding the areas later acquired from Jalore district, where also the tenures were overwhelmingly *jagir*.

The details were as follows:

#### TEHSIL

Type of village	Barmer	Shiv	Pachpadra	Siwana	Total
Khalsa ..	1	11	14	16	42
Mushtarka ..	..	1	3	2	6
Jagir (all types) ..	502	66	89	73	730

It is not possible to give the actual number of *jagirdars* and other landholders dispossessed because of the operation of the law of gavelkind in numerous cases. However, details of compensation given under the Act are revealing:

Year			Total No. of Resu- med Jagirs	Compensation paid in Rupees			
				Interim Compensa- tion.	Bonds	Cash	Total
1954-55	..	..	17	..	..	..	..
1955-56	..	..	38	61,530	..	..	61,530
1956-57	..	..	92	1,97,879	..	..	1,97,879
1957-58	..	..	121	5,26,566	..	..	5,26,566
1958-59	..	..	5154	5,86,628	54,750	152.95	6,41,530.95
1959-60	..	..	..	5,64,813	2,96,800	683.97	8,62,296.97
TOTAL	..	..	5422	19,37,416	3,51,550	836.92	22,89,802.92

## Agricultural wages

In former times, landlords made considerable use of casual labour for agricultural operations on family plots, particularly during the busy sowing and harvesting seasons. Wages were rarely paid in cash, it being usual to keep the labourer supplied with sufficient grain to feed himself and his family and also to give him old clothes and some times a rough shelter. Extra rations were supplied at the time of harvest or if more than one family member was employed. In the slack seasons, the labourer drifted to some other employment. The chief classes thus engaged were the *Bhambis* and *Sargaras*.

With the general rise in prices following the outbreak of the Second World War and even earlier in some areas, there was a trend towards payment of part at least of agricultural wages in cash as the labourers found it increasingly difficult to obtain their necessities other than food. The tendency now is to pay wages in cash, supplemented by a little grain at the time of harvest. The rate of payment fluctuates from month to month according to the nature of agricultural operations and also the area. In the less dry areas like Siwana, where the farmers are better off than in the sandy tracts, a field labourer may earn as much as Rs. 2.50 a day in the busy season while his wife gets Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.75 and child 75 naye paise to a rupee. Wages are less elsewhere.

At the same time, with the break-up of large estates, fewer field labourers find employment. The Government as a matter of policy is trying to settle them on land. In the 1951 Census, a total of 4051 persons (2084 males and 1967 females) were listed as cultivating labourers, including dependants.

## OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE

### Past Sources

In Jodhpur State, government revenue was derived chiefly from five sources, namely (i) salt, including treaty payments, royalty, etc., (ii) customs, (iii) railways, (iv) land revenue, including irrigation fees and (v) tribute from *jagirdars*, succession fees, etc.

The main items of expenditure were the army and police, civil establishment, Public Works Department, palace and household and tribute to the Government of India.

Separate revenue figures for the districts of Jodhpur State are not available.

To Maharaja Takht Singh is due the credit of systematizing the valuation of *rekh* (tribute from the *jagirdars*) and the succession fee and it was in his time (1870) that the Jodhpur portion of Sambhar lake and the Salt marts of Nawa and Gudha were leased to the British Government. In 1879, when Maharaja Jaswant Singh was ruling, four other salt sources (including Pachpadra) were leased in the same way and, shortly afterwards, the Darbar turned its attention to the reorganization of the remaining departments. In 1883 a reformed customs tariff was introduced. The main features were: (i) abolition of some of the transit duties and a thousand and one petty *lags* (imposts), as also the duty on edible grains brought in for consumption; (ii) reduction in duties on the common necessities of life, and (iii) enhancement of those on articles of luxury.

The Land Revenue Department was next taken in hand. The *khalsa* area, which was surveyed between 1883 and 1893 under the superintendence of Major Loch, was settled on the *bighori* system between 1894 and 1896 by Pandit Sukhdeo Prasad. The basis of assessment was the old *batai* collections together with certain cesses, and the equitability of the rates was ensured by checking them with the grain and cash rents and with the average revenue of the preceeding 10 years. The cesses, representing certain percentages on the revenue and formerly numbering 64, were reduced to four only, as described earlier.

Prior to 1885, there was no general treasury in the State; the practice was to spend the revenues in advance, assign actual receipts to a banker of Ajmer and draw on him for expenses from time to time, paying him both interest and discount for these advances. A treasury was, however, established in 1885 and a regular budget system introduced. In 1902 the services of the Auditor of the Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway (a British official) were utilized for auditing and checking the State accounts, and a special office was then started for the purpose. The system of accounts was known as *Mahajani Jama Kharch*; all receipts and disbursements were daily posted in the ledgers, from which entries were duly tabulated under various heads and cash balances drawn up at the close of each day. This system continued till the merger of the State, when a uniform accounts system was introduced throughout Rajasthan.

### Present Sources

Besides land revenue, the following are the main sources of revenue in the district:

*Excise and Taxation.*—Prior to 1950, there was a Department of Customs and Excise, the work of which here was divided into two circles, East and West. Then, following the abolition of internal customs duties and the setting up of a Rajasthan Government Department of Excise and Taxation an office of Assistant Commissioner, Excise and Taxation was set up at Barmer. This office deals not only with State excise but also with sales tax, agricultural income tax and the tax on the retail sale of motor spirit.

Excise duties and sales tax bring in considerable revenue. There are three Excise Inspectors stationed in the district—for the Barmer, Balotra and Siwana Circles, respectively—checking the sale of country liquor, drugs and other exciseable goods. The actual consumption of intoxicants is described in the chapter on Social Welfare. For sales tax there is one inspector working under the Assistant Commissioner, who is Sales Tax Officer for the purpose of the Act. The Deputy Commissioner, Excise and Taxation, posted at Jodhpur is the appellate authority.

Agricultural income tax is imposed on such income in excess of Rs. 6,000. Super-tax is payable on income of Rs. 30,000. In addition, it is laid down that no agricultural income tax is payable by persons owing not more than 60 acres of irrigated land or 180 acres of unirrigated land. This tax is now abolished.

Under the Rajasthan Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act (1954) retail dealers have to obtain licences from the Collector of the district. Recovery of tax can be made as if it were arrears of land revenue.

The following statements shows the revenue obtained through the Department of Excise and Taxation in 1955-56 and 1960-61:—

Item	1955-56	1960-61
Excise .. .. .	15,24,073	4,74,200.18
Sales Tax .. .. .	4,06,216	5,33,385.82
Other taxes and duties .. .. .	24,528	2,712.62
Entertainment tax .. .. .	..	26,926.21
R. P. G. T. .. .. .	..	1,10,865.27
Agricultural Income-tax .. .. .	..	1,116.89

## Registration Department

Formerly, the Collectors were entrusted with the duties of District Registrars but now this function has passed to the Sub-Divisional Officers stationed at head-quarters. The Collectors are, however, empowered to hear appeals against the orders of Sub-Registrars within their jurisdiction. The tehsildars function as ex-officio Sub-Registrars in their respective tehsils.

The following statement shows the number of documents registered and fees collected in the district in 1960-61:

Office	No. of documents registered	Total Registration Fees (Rs.)
District Registrar Barmer	48	988.50
Sub-Registrar Barmer .. ..	658	6,770.50
Sub-Registrar Shiv .. ..	11	99.00
Sub-Registrar Chohtan .. ..	125	819.50
Sub-Registrar Siwana .. ..	312	3,957.00
Sub-Registrar Pachpadra .. ..	248	3,409.00
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>1402</b>	<b>16,043.50</b>

## Stamps

Under the Stamps Act, the District Treasury Officers function as Custodians of Stamps for the purpose of storage as well as distribution and sale to the Sub-Treasuries and stamp vendors. Stamp Karkuns work under them.

Supply of stamps (both judicial and non-judicial) is arranged through the Nasik Press by the Superintendent of Stamps for distribution to the divisional treasuries and thereafter to the district treasuries.

At the district treasury, as well as at the sub-treasuries there are stamp vendors appointed by the Collector. This number is as follows:—

Barmer	2	Pachpadra	2
Chohtan	1	Siwana	1
Shiv	1		

On judicial stamps the stamp vendor gets a commission of Rs. 1.56 per cent. For non-judicial stamps the commission is as follows:—

District head quarters	Rs. 3/2/- per cent.
Sub-Divisional head-quarters	Rs. 4/11/- per cent.
Tehsil head quarters and other places	Rs. 6/4/- per cent.

The district figures for the sale of these stamps in 1960-61 are as follows:—

A. Non-judicial stamps	Rs. 48,816.40
Revenue Stamps	Rs. 2,460.50
B. Judicial:	
Court Fees	Rs. 94,284.95
Copying Fees	Rs. 2,564.80

### Transport Department

At the district level there is a motor vehicle transport sub-inspector assisted by a transport clerk. The main duty of the sub-inspector is the registration of motor vehicles and the timely realization of taxes. He also tours frequently to check whether the transport rules and regulations are being observed by motor operators. The Collector is the Registration Authority for the district.

Since 1955-56, the income of the Department in the district has been:—

	(Rs.)
1955-56	41,561.12
1956-57	50,625.02
1957-58	73,949.10
1958-59	91,020.55
1959-60	1,02,337.55
1960-61	1,15,875.18

## CHAPTER XI

### LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE.

#### Incidence of Crime

The following statement shows the incidence of some of the more important types of crime in the district during recent years:—

Crime						1956	1958	1960
Total cognizable offences (I.P.C.)						319	444	361
Rioting	..	..	..	..	..	8	16	10
Murder	..	..	..	..	..	21	14	5
Kidnapping & abduction	..	..	..	..	..	11	8	4
Rape	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	4
Dacoity	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
Robbery	..	..	..	..	..	15	33	19
Theft and house-breaking	..	..	..	..	..	142	228	160
Cheating	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	6

These figures, which are indicative of the major types of crime committed in the district, reveal that the most common offences are theft and house-breaking. This may be attributed, firstly, to the general poverty of the desert people and also in large measure to the fact that it is a border district and cattle lifting is very common. Allied offences such as robbery and dacoity are occasionally reported and cause much concern to the local administration in the border areas as these law-breakers when pursued by the police very often cross the border. Murders, too, are comparatively rare. Smuggling figures are not included here and in any case would not reveal the full extent of the problem as the border with Pakistan is long and many cases inevitably escape detection. There is reason to believe, however, that smuggling across the border has considerably decreased in recent years as a result of more effective patrolling. The excise authorities registered 16 cases of opium smuggling in 1960.



## POLICE.

## Historical Background

The ferment in Rajasthan during the break-up of the Mughal Empire and the rise of the Mahrattas began to subside with the British occupation of Ajmer in 1818. This area, however, and particularly Mallani, where the local chiefs were endeavouring to establish their independence of the Jodhpur Raj, continued to be politically disturbed. Thus, in 1836, the British occupied the area largely with a view to making safe the route between Sind and Ajmer. Military control was handed over to the Jodhpur Darbar in 1854 and criminal jurisdiction in 1898.

Before the latter date, two important steps towards establishing a regular police force had been taken in Marwar State. In 1882, a special Thuggi and Anti-dacoity Department was brought into being and, three years later, another department known as the Mahakma *Girai* was established.

Prior to this, police duties had been performed by the State's troops and even the Mahakma *Girai* found some difficulty in functioning because the Imperial Service regiments rather resented its intrusion into what they considered their sphere. At the same time the troops, working largely through informers, were of little practical use in controlling crime and it was in recognition of their ineffectiveness that a regular police force was established in 1905.

This force when constituted consisted of an Inspector-General, five District Superintendents, two Assistant Superintendents, 19 Inspectors, 79 Sub-Inspectors, 41 Havildars, 111 Naiks, 415 mounted constables (including 200 furnished by the jagirdars), 1,144 foot constables and 71 *pagis* (*trackers*), besides clerks and the menial establishment. The total strength in 1905 was thus 1990, or one man for about 18 square miles of territory and 972 inhabitants, and the annual cost was estimated at nearly Rs. 2.2 lakhs.

For police purposes, Marwar State was divided into four districts (each under a Superintendent) and 15 circles (each under an Inspector), and there were altogether 70 *thanas* (police stations) and 123 *chaukis* (outposts). A reserve of 100 men was maintained at the capital.

This force had jurisdiction throughout Marwar except in the estates of certain Thakurs who were allowed to retain some of their

police powers. For example, they were held responsible for the detection and investigation of all offences other than heinous crimes such as murder, dacoity, highway robbery, etc. committed within their respective estates, and they had to keep registers and records which were open to periodical inspection.

The Darbar maintained no village police, but in some places *chowkidars*—usually members of the criminal tribes—were employed and paid by the inhabitants. The remuneration they received was termed *lag-bag* and was paid either in cash or kind. This system continued right up to the time of the integration of Jodhpur State. Actually, in the new set-up little change was required in police organization, the only new post introduced in the hierarchy being that of Deputy Superintendent of Police; in the princely State, the officer immediately below the Superintendent of Police had been the Circle Inspector.

The police set-up in 1949 was as follows:—

Circle Barmer

Police Stations	Outposts
1. Barmer .. ..	1. Bisala 2. Baitu
2. Chohtan .. ..	1. Binjasar 2. Bhungariya (Obhala) 3. Bamnor
3. Ramsar .. ..	1. Jhinkali 2. Siyani
4. Giran .. ..	1. Keshua
5. Shiv .. ..	1. Barsingha 2. Rajdol 3. Arang 4. Bhinyar 5. Zak
6. Girab .. ..	1. Sundra 2. Rohidi 3. Munabao 4. Gadra Raod 5. Jaisinder Village 6. Tamloro Rly. Station 7. Jaisinder Rly. Station 8. Lilma Rly. Station
7. Gura Mallani .. ..	1. Dhorimana 2. Malpura

Police Stations				Outposts
Circle Balotra				
8. Balotra				
9. Jasol				
10. Sindhari	..	..	..	1. Sarnu
11. Siwana	..	..	..	1. Dhorna
12. Samdari				
13. Mandali				

### Present Position

The police force in the district is divided into two categories, viz., civil police and armed police. The armed police deals mainly with dacoits and robbers and also is called upon when a breach of peace is threatened. The total strength of the police force is as follows:—

Superintendent	1
Deputy Superintendents	2
Inspectors	4
Sub-Inspectors	25
Head Constables	92
Constables	646

The strength of each of the two categories is as follows:—

#### Armed Police

Reserve Inspector	1
Reserve Sub-Inspector	1
Head Constables	26
Constables	103

#### Civil Police

Circle Inspectors	2
Prosecuting Inspector	1
Sub-Inspectors	21
Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors	3
Head Constables	66
Constables	543

For police administration, the district has been divided into two Circles—Barmer and Balotra. Barmer Circle has nine police stations and Balotra Circle six. There is also a number of outposts. The set-up is as follows:—

### Barmer Circle

Police Stations				Outposts	
1.	Barmer	..	..	1.	Baitu
				2.	Bisala
				3.	Town outpost, Barmer
3.	Gura Mallani	..	..	1.	Dhorimana
				2.	Malpura
3.	Ramsar	..	..	1.	Siyani
4.	Gidan	..	..	1.	Bataru
				2.	Kesula
5.	Chohtan	..	..	1.	Baori
				2.	Binjasar
				3.	Bamnor
6.	Girab	..	..	1.	Gadra Road
				2.	Jhankali
				3.	Khabdala
7.	Shiv	..	..	1.	Rajda
				2.	Barsingha
				3.	Bhiyar
				4.	Arange
8.	Bhakasar	..	..	1.	Sarla
9.	Sodwa	..	..	1.	Burhan-ka-Talla
				2.	Ogala

### Balotra Circle

1.	Balotra	..
2.	Siwana	1. Padru
3.	Samdari	..
4.	Jasol	..
5.	Mandali	..
6.	Sindhari	1. Sarnu

There is also a Challani Guard at Balotra, the function of which is to arrange for the escort of under-trials to and from the courts. At each outpost, there is one head constable and four to eight constables.

**Traffic Police**

Only in Barmer town are there constables to direct traffic at road intersections. These constables are drawn from the civil police force; there is no separate Traffic Police unit.

**Special Branch**

The former Intelligence Branch is now known as the District Special Branch. It is controlled from C.I.D. headquarters at Jaipur.

**Railway Police**

In the time of the former Jodhpur State, small units of railway police were posted at important stations, in this district at Barmer, Balotra and Samdari. The district headquarters of the railway police is now at Barmer and there are three out-posts at Munabao, Samdari and Balotra, respectively. The strength is as follows:—

**Station Barmer**

Sub-Inspector	1
Head Constables	2
Constables	18

**Outpost Munabao**

Head Constables	1
Constables	5

**Outpost Samdari**

Head Constables	1
Constables	5

**Outpost Balotra**

Head Constables	1
Constables	3

**Total strength**

Sub-Inspectors Police	1
Head Constables	5
Constables	31

The following statement of cases dealt with shows that there has been a considerable decrease in the number of railway crimes in

recent years. Cases of travel without tickets are shown separately:—

Year			Theft in running trains	Theft at Stations	Theft at goods yards	Miscella- neous crimes	Total crimes	No. of cases of ticketless travel
1950	..	..	13	7	5	118	143	43
1953	..	..	2	4	5	189	200	90
1955	..	..	2	5	2	19	28	155
1958	..	..	..	3	1	4	8	89
1960	..	..	2	2	3	6	13	17

### Anti-Corruption Squad

An Anti-Corruption unit was formed in the district in 1960-61 before which cases were dealt with directly by the Deputy Superintendent, A.C.D., Jodhpur. The strength of the unit is one Deputy Superintendent, a Sub-Inspector, a head constable and two constables. The Deputy Superintendent's jurisdiction also covers the districts of Jalore and Jaisalmer.

### R. A. C.

By an Act passed in 1950, a special body of police called the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary was formed. The first recruits were largely numbers of the former princely State armies. The function of the R.A.C. is to assist the regular police when the law and order situation threatens to get out of hand but more especially to patrol the border areas. In July 1951, the 3rd. Bn. R.A.C. was posted in this district to patrol the border areas. The headquarters of the battalion are situated near Barmer town.

The Commanding Officer is of rank equivalent to Superintendent of Police. He is assisted by two Assistant Commanding Officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police who command eight of the nine companies. The ninth company is at headquarters and is known as the Headquarters Wing.

The set-up is as follows:—

- |  |    |    |                                   |
|--|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer (S.P.'s rank)      | .. | .. | 1                                 |
| 2. Asstt. Commanding Officers (Dy. S.P.) | .. | 2  | (each commanding four companies). |
| 3. Adjutant                              | .. | .. | 1 (commanding the 9th company).   |
| 4. Quarter-Master                        | .. | .. | 1                                 |
| 5. Company Commanders (Inspector's rank) | .. | 8  |                                   |
| 6. Platoon Commanders (Sub-Inspectors)   | .. | 27 |                                   |

The number of border raids (which are mainly for the purpose of cattle lifting but are sometimes more serious) fluctuate from year to year. They reached a high water mark in 1958, when 56 cases were recorded, but in 1960 they dwindled to only five.

### JAIL ADMINISTRATION

In the parganas of Jodhpur State which now comprise the district, the Judicial Superintendent at Balotra and the Hakims in charge of the parganas were responsible for the efficient management of the jails and the proper care of prisoners. These pargana lock-ups were governed by the provisions of the Marwar Prison Act (1932).

#### Present Set-up

There are now only two sub-jails in the district, at Barmer and Balotra, respectively, which are under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Magistrates stationed at these places. That at Balotra is a first class sub-jail and the Barmer sub-jail is of the second class. In each sub-jail there are two barrack cells, one for males and the other for female prisoners. Their capacity is as follows:—

Sub-Jail	ACCOMMODATION		
	Male	Female	Total
Barmer	20	2	22
Balotra	18	2	20

Each sub-jail has staff consisting of an Assistant Jailor, a head warder and eight warders. Though the jail accommodation at Barmer is a slightly larger, the building is less impressive than the sub-jail at Balotra, which is built of stone and is very strong. Only under-trial and those sentenced up to one month's imprisonment are kept in the sub-jails. Those sentenced in the district courts for longer terms of imprisonment are sent to Jodhpur.

#### Prison Discipline

Discipline is maintained in accordance with the Jail Regulations. The prisoners are housed together according to sex and there is no provision for solitary confinement. They are well behaved and no instance of disorderly conduct has been reported in recent years.

## Welfare

The sub-jails are visited on alternate days by a medical officer; a compounder comes daily to give medicine to the sick. There is a prison library from which books are supplied to those who want them. Visits of relatives are permitted according to rules and for each sub-jail there is a Board of Visitors which makes periodical visits and brings complaints to the notice of the authorities.

Neither sub-jail has facilities for crafts such as basket-making and mat-weaving. This is because no inmate stays for long.

## JUDICIARY

### Historical Sketch

Up to the close of the 18th century, because of external invasions and internal disorders, there was neither any written law nor any system of properly constituted courts of justice. In some cases people settled their disputes by recourses to arms, in others the assistance of the village panchayats was sought (where, as often as not, resort was had to one of the different forms of trial by ordeal) and in rare cases, especially when one or both of the parties were influential, the matter would be taken before the *Hakim*. Appeals against the decisions of the *Hakim* lay to the Diwan at the capital, Jodhpur.

Colonel Tod, describing the Marwar of his time (1818-22), wrote that since the death of Maharaja Bijai Singh (1793) "the judgement-seat had been vacant" and that "the administration of justice was very lax in these communities", capital punishments being rarely awarded, and the common sentences in cases of murder being fine, corporal punishment, imprisonment, confiscation of property or banishment. On the other hand, political offences were summarily dealt with, and the whole power of the government was concentrated to punish them.

In 1839 there were established certain courts at the capital and in the districts, justice in the latter being administered by the *Hakim*, the Karkun, the Munsiff, the *waqa-navis* and the *Ittila-navis*. Appeals were allowed except in cases of a trivial nature, but the procedure in all these courts was very primitive.

Up to 1873 the proceedings of a case were seldom recorded, and no files or registers were kept. Even where crime was proved,



the law could not reach an offender if he belonged to a privileged class or sought shelter in a temple or with an influential person. In *Jagir* areas, the state of affairs was even worse, as the *jagirdars* resented any interference on the part of the Darbar.

It was till the seventies of the last century that concrete steps were taken to establish a proper judicial system. These steps were: (i) suppression of crime with the aid of a strong police force; (ii) institution of a board of crime control called the Mahakma Musahibat (later re-styled the Mahakma Khas); (iii) creation of fresh courts and the introduction of statutory law, and (iv) bringing the powers of the leading nobles into harmony with the mechanism of the State law courts, after a proper definition and classification of the same into three grades.

With a view to supplying the want of tribunal strong enough to command the obedience of the *jagirdars*, a Court of Sardars was brought into existence in 1882. Two Munsiffs' Courts were added in 1884 and 1886 to dispose of accumulated arrears and at the headquarters of two Circles or groups of districts were located Judicial Superintendents' Courts to check the work of the *Hakims* and to dispose of, on the spot instead of at the capital, certain cases beyond the powers of the latter. One such court was located at Balotra.

This reorganisation was not confined to the creation of new tribunals but was accompanied by systematic legislation which resulted in an approximation of the entire judicial machinery to the regular Anglo-Indian Model. The Mahakma Khas, presided over by the Maharaja, was both the Legislature and the High Court for Marwar. Before making any attempt towards codification, it issued from time to time, rules and regulations for the guidance of the subordinate courts.

During 1885-86 a Civil Procedure Code, Limitation, Evidence and Stamps Acts and a Criminal Procedure Code were prepared and published, the first four coming into force in January 1886 and the last in March 1887. All were based on similar enactments in British India, with modifications to suit local requirements. In civil cases the courts followed the generally understood principles of Hindu Law and local usage.

#### State Courts

The State tribunals numbered 85 and consisted of (a) 41 courts prescribed over by officials appointed by the Darbar and

(b) 44 courts presided over by *jagirdars* or their managers. To the first group belonged nine *hawala* courts (none of which were situated in this area), 23 *hakumat* courts, the Jodhpur Kotawali, the Mallani *munsifi*, the courts of the two Superintendents of Circles, the Civil Court (*Sadar Diwani*), the Criminal Court (*Sadar Faujdari*), the Appellate Court, the Court of Sardars and the Mahakma Khas.

### Jagir Courts

Since Mallani particularly and the other parganas of the area were largely under *jagirdars*, the *jagir* courts merit some description. In 1883 the *jagirdars* were divided into three grades, namely, (a) those authorized to try civil suits not exceeding Rs. 1,000/- in value and to pass sentences up to six months' imprisonment and Rs. 300/- fine; (b) those possessing exactly half of these powers, and (c) those which could take up suits of value not exceeding Rs. 300/- and could punish with one month's imprisonment and fine up to Rs. 100/-. Appeals lay from all these courts to the State courts. The *jagirdars* who possessed judicial powers were obliged to keep as assistants persons trained in judicial work and approved by the Mahakma Khas.

### Chief Court

In 1922, a Chief Court was established at Jodhpur and all the powers of the Mahakma Khas were transferred to it besides original jurisdiction in suits of the value of more than Rs. 10,000/-. The entire judicial system was reorganized at the same time; Jodhpur State was divided into four Circles, each under a Judicial Superintendent, the powers of all courts were properly defined and rules regarding examination and enrolment of vakils were introduced for the first time.

A further reorganization was effected in 1924 when the District and Sessions Courts took the place of the *Faujdari* and Civil Courts and the Court of Sardars and courts of Naib Hakims were created for the first time.

As time passed, the jurisdiction of the courts, both original and appellate, was considerably modified. The position at the time of the merger can be summarized as follows:—

### Chief Court

At the apex was the Chief Court. On the criminal side, it exercised original jurisdiction in all criminal cases in which the death penalty was considered necessary. Appeals

against acquittals went to the Chief Court as did cases in which the Sessions Judge was of the opinion that the capital sentence should be awarded. Sentences of life imprisonment passed by a Sessions Judge also were subject to confirmation by the Chief Court.

Sentences of death awarded by the Chief Court were subject to confirmation by the Darbar.

On the civil side, the Chief Court had concurrent powers with the District Courts to try original civil suits of the value of Rs. 10,000/- or more. It heard appeals from the original decrees of the District Courts and second appeals from the *Hakims* and Judicial Superintendents' Courts.

### District and Sessions Courts

There were three District and Sessions Courts. Court No. 3 had territorial jurisdiction over the parganas of this area.

On the civil side, this court was empowered to try original suits of value of Rs. 4,000/- or more and to hear appeals from the decrees of the Judicial Superintendents. Insolvency jurisdiction also vested in it.

On the criminal side, as Court of Sessions it had the power of awarding any sentence except that of death; sentences of life imprisonment were subject to confirmation by the Chief Court. All appeals against conviction by Magistrates of the First Class and the Thikana Courts lay to the Court of Sessions.

### Judicial Superintendents' Courts

There was a Judicial Superintendent's Court for each of the four Circles of Mallani (with headquarters at Balotra), Sojat, Nagaur and Phalodi. The Mallani Circle comprised the parganas of Barmer, Shiv, Jaswantpura, Sanchore, Siwana, Pachpadra and Jalore.

On the civil side, the Judicial Superintendent had original jurisdiction in suits of the value of Rs. 100/- to Rs. 4,000/- and heard appeals from the decrees of the *Hakims* and the Naib *Hakims*. On the criminal side he exercised powers under Section 30 of the Marwar Criminal Procedure Code and the power of hearing appeals against conviction by Magistrates of the Second and Third Classes. He also exercised the powers of District Magistrate.

### Hakims Courts

In this area, there were *Hakims* at Barmer, Shiv, Pachpadra and Siwana. A post of Naib *Hakim* also existed at Barmer

The *Hakim* on the civil side was empowered to try suits up to the value of Rs. 1,000/-. On the criminal side, he was a First Class Magistrate but without any appellate powers.

The Naib *Hakim* tried monetary suits up to the value of Rs. 200/- on the civil side, and exercised Third Class magisterial powers on the criminal side for the first two years after which he was authorized to try civil suits of all kinds up to the value of Rs. 500/- and was invested with Second Class magisterial powers.

Thus, prior to January 1949, in the former Jodhpur State there was no separation of the executive and judiciary. All three District and Sessions Judges had their headquarters at Jodhpur City. For the purposes of civil, criminal and revenue law, the State was divided into *hakumats* or *parganas*. In every *hakumat* there was a *Hakim* and in some Naib *Hakims* as well. The *Hakim* was the counterpart of the present Munsiff-Magistrate. Two or more *hakumats* were in the charge of an officer designated as Judicial Superintendent, who performed the functions of District Magistrate and was a subordinate Judge for civil cases. There were also Revenue Officers who exercised no judicial powers.

In January 1949, the District Officer system was introduced in the princely State and in each district a Collector was appointed. Under him there were Assistant Collectors and under them Tehsildars. Courts of subordinate Judges and Munsiffs were also established; these were given pecuniary jurisdiction up to Rs. 4,000/- and Rs. 1,000/-. respectively.

#### Present Position

After the formation of Rajasthan all Collectors of Districts were appointed District Magistrates by virtue of their office. Similarly, all Assistant Collectors in charge of Sub-Divisions were appointed First Class Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrates and all Tehsildars were given the powers of Magistrates of the Second or Third Class. Thus the criminal jurisdiction of the superior Revenue Officers was confirmed. Where criminal case work was heavy, Extra Magistrates were appointed.

The Court of a District and Sessions Judge, with headquarters at Balotra, was constituted a few months before the merger with overall jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters over Barmer and Jalore Districts. Before this, cases had been dealt with by a District and Sessions Judge at Jodhpur, as already stated. In the new set-up,

the court of a Civil Judge has been established at Balotra with jurisdiction over Pachpadra and Siwana Tehsils. There is a munsiff at Barmer with jurisdiction over the remaining three tehsils of Shiv, Barmer and Chohtan.

On the criminal and revenue side, the present position is as follows:—

The Collector as District Magistrate is subordinate to the District and Sessions Judge in criminal matters but is at the apex (after the abolition of the posts of Commissioners in 1961) of the district revenue courts. Under him in both criminal and revenue matters are the Sub-Divisional Officers (Magistrates) at Barmer and Balotra each of whom has First Class powers. There is also an Extra Magistrate at Barmer with First Class powers; the division of jurisdiction between the Extra Magistrate and the S.D.M. Barmer has been made on the basis of police station areas. The Tehsildars have lesser criminal and revenue powers, as indicated before, in their respective areas. Other Magistrates are posted as follows:—

Chohtan	..	..	.. Second Class Magistrate
Barmer	..	..	.. Third Class Magistrate
Shiv	..	..	.. -do-
Siwana	..	..	.. -do-
Pachpadra	..	..	.. -do-

### Legal Profession

There are two Bar Associations in the district, one situated at Balotra and the other at Barmer. The former is well organized and regular meetings are held. It was set up in 1953-54 and in 1960-61 had 18 members, of whom 14 were advocates and the rest pleaders. The Association runs a small library.

The Bar Association at Barmer was formed in 1945-46 but is less active. On its rolls are five advocates and 18 vakils.

## CHAPTER XII

### OTHER DEPARTMENTS

In this Chapter are described those departmental activities which have not been dealt with elsewhere in this gazetteer.

#### Public Works Department

An office of an Assistant Engineer of the Public Works Department, located at Barmer town, is under the supervision of the Executive Engineer, Western Division, Jodhpur. Under the Assistant Engineer are four overseers, three stationed at Barmer and one at Balotra, plus clerical staff.

Apart from the road building programme, which is described in the chapter on Communications, the main functions of the district office are the repair and maintenance of Government buildings and the construction of new ones. Some of the more important construction works undertaken in recent years are as follows:—

- (1) Rest houses at Gura Mallani, Sindhari, Barmer and Balotra.
- (2) Police stations at Gura Mallani, Samdari and Girab.
- (3) Jail building at Balotra.
- (4) S.D.O's. Court at Balotra.

The list is long and the above items are only indicative of the type of work undertaken.

#### Rehabilitation Department

After partition, a large number of refugees came over to the district from Sind. Many have since left and rehabilitation work has now come to an end. A single clerk in the Collector's office was dealing with cases, most of which referred to loans. The Deputy Custodian at Jodhpur has charge of evacuee property in the district.

#### Court of Wards

At the time of the formation of Rajasthan, there were 23 estates with the Court of Wards of Jodhpur State. These were

supervised by two *Kamdars* and an Inspector with the help of five patwaris. The headquarters of the Inspector was at Balotra. After the merger, five more estates were taken under the management of the Court of Wards, the guardian being the Board of Revenue of the Rajasthan Government. Since 1953 no additional estate has been taken under management.

### **Devasthan Department**

In Jodhpur State, there was a Devasthan Dharampura Department which managed not only religious places but also asylums and schemes undertaken out of charity funds.

After the formation of Rajasthan, the Government created a Devasthan Department under the charge of a Commissioner, whose headquarters are at present at Udaipur. Barmer district is under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner posted at Jodhpur.

### **Immigration Check-posts**

Two police check-posts were established at Barmer and Munabao, respectively, on August 1, 1955, for the purpose of checking the documents of travellers between India and Pakistan. Each post is under an officer of the rank of C.L., who is assisted by six sub-Inspectors, 12 Head Constables and 46 constables. The immediate controlling authority is the Superintendent of Police (Police Zone Officer) Jodhpur.

### **Anti-Malaria Unit**

A Malaria Eradication Programme Unit was established at Barmer in March, 1960. Prior to this, some parts of the district were under the Malaria Control Programme Unit stationed at Jalore.

A Medical Officer is in-charge of the unit at the district level in addition to his other duties. He takes instructions and assistance from the Assistant Director of Public Health (Malaria) at Jaipur. There are two anti-malaria sub-units posted at Barmer and Shiv, respectively; the sphere of operation of the Unit covers both Barmer and Jaisalmer districts. Apart from the Medical Officer in-charge the sanctioned strength of the Unit consists of an Assistant Unit Officer, three Technicians, six Malaria Inspectors, 24 Surveillance Inspectors, 96 Surveillance workers, three Superior Field Workers and seven Field workers, plus clerical and other staff.

During 1960, the Unit sprayed 72,081 houses and 4,028 cattle-sheds in 761 villages.

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

The following departments of the Central Government are functioning in the district:—

- (a) Railways
- (b) Posts and Telegraphs
- (c) Central Customs and Excise
- (d) Anti-locust Unit
- (e) Income Tax
- (f) Meteorological Observatory
- (g) National Savings Office

### Railways

The Divisional Superintendent of the Northern Railways at Jodhpur has jurisdiction over this area. The first railway line in the district, from Luni Junction to Pachpadra, was set up in 1887. There are two junctions, namely Sandari and Balotra. From Sandari a branch line goes to Bhildi via Jalore, Mokalsar being the last station on this line in this district. From Balotra, a branch line goes to the Pachpadra Salt Depot.

All the lines are metre-gauge. Details are given in the chapter on Communications.

### Posts and Telegraphs Department

The district is under the supervision of Superintendent, Post Offices, Western Division, Jodhpur. There are at present only 62 post offices in the whole district. The two telephone exchanges at Barmer and Balotra are under the S.D.O. Telephones at Jodhpur. Further details of the postal set-up are given in the chapter on Communications.

### Central Customs & Excise Department

The inland land customs station of Barmer was established in 1948. At first the station was administered by the Rajasthan Customs Department and assumed considerable importance due to the heavy flow of migrants proceeding to Pakistan for permanent settlement without travel documents. On April 16, 1950, the administration was taken over by the Government of India. It was



not, however, till July 31, 1955 that the Munabao-Khokhrapar route was made an authorized route for journeys to Pakistan.

Customs work is channelled through two separate branches. One branch deals with passenger traffic while the other is engaged in the prevention of smuggling on the Pakistan border. Each branch is under the control of a Deputy Superintendent, who is responsible to the Superintendent, Central Excise and Customs. This officer is in turn subordinate to the Assistant Collector, Central Excise and Customs. The Collector, Central Excise and Customs, New Delhi, is at the apex of the administration.

There are 20 Inspectors and Supervisors attached to the customs station. Their duties are mainly to ensure that the Indo-Pakistan Baggage Rules are properly observed and no attempt is made by travellers to circumvent the various restrictions imposed on foreign travel.

#### **Anti-Locust Units**

As this is a border district, a unit has been established at Barmer to give warning of locust invasions and to take measures with the assistance of the district authorities, to destroy hoppers. A locust warning officer is in charge. The unit is controlled by a Deputy Locust Entomologist stationed at Jodhpur.

#### **Income Tax Department**

There is no Income Tax Officer posted in the district but Inspectors from the office of the Income Tax Officer at Jodhpur make periodical tours.

#### **Meteorological Observatory**

There is only one meteorological observatory in the district, at Barmer. The staff employed consists of an officer in-charge, observer and an observatory assistant. Meteorological observations are sent to the Regional Meteorological Centre, New Delhi.

#### **National Savings Office**

Under the National Savings Scheme, a Small Savings Organizer has been posted at Barmer. He works under the supervision of the Collector but is also responsible to the Deputy Regional National Savings Officer stationed at Jaipur. In the past few years, the

following achievements in regard to collections under Small Savings Securities have been recorded:

					(Rupees)	
Year					Gross Collections	Net Collections
1958-59	..	..	..	..	..	3,00,000
1959-60	..	..	..	..	5,89,600	2,62,900
1960-61	..	..	..	..	4,40,700	(—) 60,900

## CHAPTER XIII

### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

#### History

Though no records are available, it is probable that village panchayats existed in this area before the feudal system was firmly established. Once this happened, local government in the villages virtually disappeared and the people had to obey the dictates of others rather than have their corporate life supervised by their own chosen representatives. However, in several communities such as the Rajputs, Brahmans, Oswals, etc., there continued to exist councils known as *Jaat* Panchayats. These panchayats merely performed certain social functions directed towards protecting the interests of the communities they served. They had no official powers or even functions.

It was not till the early 1940's that the Jodhpur Government seriously considered the establishment of village panchayats. Finally, in 1945, the Marwar Gram Panchayats Act was promulgated and local bodies were formed in *Khalsa* villages. By 1949, there were 28 panchayats in the district, serving a total of 36 villages. A Government Inspector supervised the working of these panchayats, which were given minor judicial powers. After the formation of the district under the new Government of Rajasthan, many more panchayats came into existence and by 1953 the total number in the area had increased to 124.

With the passing of the Rajasthan Panchayats Act in 1953, tehsil panchayats were set up. In the succeeding years more panchayats came into existence and the process was considerably speeded up with the introduction of the scheme of democratic decentralization. Thus, at the end of 1960-61, there were 247 panchayats in the district. The tehsil panchayats were abolished, their place being taken by the panchayat samitis, the jurisdiction of which coincided with the development blocks and "shadow" blocks, and at the headquarters level there was the Zila Parishad to co-ordinate local development activities for the whole district.

In the towns, local government was introduced earlier. In 1915, a municipal board came into existence in Balotra town and in 1932 Barmer also was given a municipality. At first the membership was purely official but later on elective element was introduced. After the passing of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, wider powers and responsibilities were given to these bodies. There has never been any District Board in the area.

### Municipalities

#### Balotra

The municipality at Balotra, as stated earlier, was set up in 1915. In the beginning, there were seven members, all nominated by the Government; the *Hakim* of the pargana was Chairman. In 1931-32, the Judicial Superintendent at Balotra became President of the Board and the *Hakim* of Pachpadra was made Vice-President. The Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Balotra, was an ex-officio member. There were eight non-official members, but all were nominated. In 1940-41, the non-official strength was raised by two to give representation to the *Sunar* and *Mali* communities.

It was not till 1946 that an elective element was introduced. When the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act came into force in 1951 the municipality came under the control of the Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan.

**Organisation:** At present (1960-61) the total number of the elected members is ten. The town is divided into 10 wards and one member is elected from each ward. Two members are nominated by the Government, one from the Scheduled Castes/Tribes and the other a woman. The term of office is three years. The Executive Officer is appointed by the Directorate.

The office establishment has five sections, namely, Tax Collection, Sanitation, Water Works, Power House and General Establishment. The strength of these sections is as follows:—

**General Establishment:** One head clerk, an accountant, two clerks, three peons, an office jamadar, a waterman and a tamil kunka.

**Tax Collection staff:** One tax clerk, eight naib-octroi moharirs, three tax jamadars and a warehouse chowkidar.

**Sanitation staff:** One overseer, a driver, a cleaner, a waterman, two jamadars, seven female sweepers, 25 male sweepers, a cartman and a gardner.

*Water works Staff:* One regular fitter, a keyman, a meter reader, a cleaner and a chowdika.

*Power House Staff:* One Assistant Engineer, a mechanic, a store-keeper, a meter clerk, three drivers, four cleaners, a lineman, a switchboard attendant, a fuseman and a cartman.

Thus the total strength of the staff is 84, including the Executive Officer.

*Powers and Duties:* In the early days of the municipality, there were no well defined laws and bye-laws, but in 1943 some of the provisions of the Jodhpur Municipalities Act were applied. Up to the time of the merger, the main functions of the municipality were sanitation and street lighting. Later, with the passing of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, further powers and duties were acquired so that the municipality now has power to impose taxes on vehicles, entertainment, electricity and water supply as well as octroi.

Its main duties are sanitation and public health, lighting, water supply and public utility construction. These are described below:—

*Sanitation:* There is a municipal tractor which makes a number of rounds daily to gather up refuse. Nearly eight tons of waste thus carted away daily is composted. More than 30 sweepers are employed to clean the streets daily. They are supplied with phenyl and powder disinfectants for use in the municipal latrines and urinals.

*Lighting:* The power house under municipal control has three generating sets, one of 50 kw. and two of 22½ kw. each. There are 140 street lights and 120 private connections. Power is also supplied to small factories.

*Water:* A pumping set in a step-well on the bank of the river Luni carries water to an overhead tank from which supplies are made through two main lines for five hours in the day. There are 95 public connections and 225 private connections. The water pipelines total 1800 ft. Four hundred feet of pipe-line have been laid for flush sanitation.

*Construction work:* Construction and maintenance of roads in the towns is under the control of the municipality. The main street is paved with stone slabs. Since 1950-51, a total of 63,130 ft. of paved road have been laid in the town, besides 2,600 ft. of gravel



	Expenditure	Rs.
1. G. A. D. including tax realisation and other office expenses		30,691
2. Public health and sanitation	.. .. .	14,955
3. Public Works	.. .. .	17,431
4. Light	.. .. .	61,281
5. Water Works	.. .. .	18,551
6. Cattle Pound	.. .. .	1,408
7. Public Utilities	.. .. .	9,691
8. Public Safety	.. .. .	538
9. Others	.. .. .	3,326
	TOTAL ..	<u>1,86,375</u>

## Barmer

The town of Barmer, though the largest in the area had to wait till 1932 for the establishment of a municipality largely because the land was held by various people in Bhomichara tenure and these jagirdars feared that their rights might be curtailed. A representation made on behalf of the people in 1931 was, however, eventually accepted by the Darbar and a Municipal Board came into being on July 1, 1932. The *Hakim* was made Chairman of the Board and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, the Headmaster of the D.E.M. school and the Circle Inspector of Police were members. The functions of the municipality at first were merely clearing of refuse and attention to street lighting and terminal tax on imports and exports was the only source of income.

In 1939, five non-official members were added to the Board, representation being allotted to various communities. In the same year, the functions were enlarged to cover construction of buildings and the prevention of encroachment on public thoroughfares. In 1940-41, the number of non-officials was raised to 17 and at the same time the Inspector of Police was dropped from the list of official members and replaced by the Naib *Hakim*. The *Hakim* continued to preside.

The Directorate of Local Bodies, Jodhpur, was given administrative control of the municipality in 1944-45. There was some change in the official representation, though the total number (four) was not affected. The year 1948-49 saw a major change, for it was decided that all members should be elected, except that the Government reserved the right to nominate a member of the backward classes and a woman if no such persons were elected. Twenty-two members, including two nominated persons as above, took office in November 1949, but for the second elections, in 1953-54, the number was reduced to 18, two of them nominated. This set-up continues.

*Organization and Structure:* As stated earlier, the Board at first had only four official members. The staff at its disposal consisted of a clerk, two jamadars and 14 workers for sanitation and street lighting. The staff was gradually increased so that in 1950-51 it consisted of three clerks, a Sanitary Inspector (first appointed in 1946-47), two jamadars, two peons and 41 sweepers. By 1960, as a result of the increase in municipal functions, the staff had risen to 23 clerks including tax collection *moharrirs*, a Sanitary Inspector, an overseer, two jamadars, seven peons and 64 sweepers, excluding the staff of the power house.

The Board has a President, a Vice-President and an Executive Officer who is appointed by the Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan.

*Powers and Duties:* At the outset, there were no well defined powers of the Board but, because the members were officials, decisions taken at meetings could be implemented without difficulty. In 1943, the provisions of the Jodhpur Municipalities Act were made applicable and for the first time proper laws and bye-laws were introduced. With the passing of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, the Board was given the powers and duties of a municipality of the second category in May 1960.

*Financial Resources:* Up to the year 1953, the main source of income was terminal tax. This was doubled in 1943-44 because of the rise in prices. In 1953, sanction was given by Government for the charging of Entertainment Tax and in 1956-57 bye-laws regarding the issue of *Thelagadi* Licences (Vehicle Tax) were passed, bringing about a considerable increase in the Board's income.

The Board also receives income by way of fines, fees and the takings of the cattle pound. Formerly the municipality was a self-supporting body but in recent years loans and grants-in-aid have been received from the Government for specific purposes.

The following table shows the income (in rupees) of the Board in selected years:—

Item	1942-43	1949-50	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61
(a) Taxes ..	2,957.42	4,010.46	53,379.00	91,303.72	1,47,523.93
(b) Income under other sources ..	..	..	..	..	35,298.78
(c) Fees, fines, etc. ..	..	..	561.00	4,110.00	11,733.89
(d) Subsidies ..	..	..	..	10,409.00	27,365.00
(e) Loans ..	..	..	..	..	32,000.00
(f) Grants-in-aid ..	..	..	..	16,581.37	12,500.00
(g) Miscellaneous ..	..	..	190.00	7,075.41	26,167.01
Total ..	2,957.42	4,010.46	54,130.00	1,32,478.50	3,06,588.64



Total expenditure (in rupees) in the same years was as follows:—

1932-33	..	..	..	2,274.70
1940-41	..	..	..	3,406.05
1950-51	..	..	..	20,852.66
1955-56	..	..	..	1,48,668.33
1959-60	..	..	..	2,03,501.84
1960-61	..	..	..	2,81,332.72

The income and expenditure figures show the extent to which the activities of the municipality have increased in recent years. It is not possible to give a detailed statement of comparison of expenditure figures for different years as the items of expenditure vary from year to year. However, the break-up of expenditure in 1960-61 will give some idea of general pattern. It is as follows:—

Item					Amount (in rupees)
General admn.	..	..	..	..	15,134.76
Tax Realisation	..	..	..	..	12,018.21
Other Office expenses	..	..	..	..	4,932.39
Public Utilities	..	..	..	..	61,532.81
Light	..	..	..	..	6,211.95
Water	..	..	..	..	7,980.20
Cattle Pound	..	..	..	..	1,680.05
Library	..	..	..	..	848.35
Park	..	..	..	..	87.50
Public safety	..	..	..	..	978.26
Public works	..	..	..	..	30,574.96
Earnest Money and deposits	..	..	..	..	3,541.00
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	7,247.82
Education	..	..	..	..	109.00
Expenditure out on water supply loan	..	..	..	..	45,591.50
Power House	..	..	..	..	76,936.60
Water works	..	..	..	..	5,966.46
Total					2,81,332.72

## Achievements

In the beginning, the municipality could not work effectively in the absence of well defined powers and duties. Later it was able to take up important projects like the setting up of a power house and supply of drinking water. Achievements in various spheres are as follows:—

*Sanitation and Light.*—In 1932-33 there were only 28 street lanterns in the town. Fourteen sweepers were employed to clean the streets. By 1942, the number of lanterns had risen to 30 and there were in addition eight petromax lamps. By the same year a number of drains had been built and 16 refuse bins placed at different spots. Now, there are eight compounds with 25 seats in each to serve as latrines for women.

Later, in order to remove refuse from the town, a lorry was hired. By 1952, the number of petromax lamps on the streets had risen to 24 and the number of sweepers to 41.

In 1953-54, two small engines were installed for the generation of electricity. At the start there were only 76 electric bulbs on the streets but by the end of 1960-61 the number had risen to 238.

*Water:* Barmer town has always suffered from a scarcity of water and the problem has become acute as a result of the growth of population. The main source of water supply is wells, but since 1947-48 piped supply has been available from a step-well. Only part of the town is served and that too for two hours in the day.

*Construction work:* In 1955-56 there was a total of 3,966 ft. of bitumenized road and 2,318 ft. of other roads under municipal control. By the end of 1959-60 a total of 2,778 ft. of new road had been built. Other construction works carried out from time to time include the construction of drains and the erection of buildings for municipal needs. In 1960, work was started on a municipal office building.

*Miscellaneous:* The municipality does not run any school but a grant of Rs. 700/- is made yearly to an institution known as the Sarvajanic Vachanalaya. A further sum of Rs. 300/- is given yearly to a piao (Janna Das Piao) situated at the junction of the roads leading to Chohtan, Gura and Bhakasar.

Due to the scarcity of water, the refuse of the town, which is nearly 14 tons per day, cannot be turned to manure by the composting

method. The scarcity of water has also made it impossible to maintain a public park.

## PANCHAYATS

The history of panchayats in the area prior to the passing of the Rajasthan Panchayats Act in 1953 has been traced earlier in this chapter. Under the Act, tehsil panchayats were set up at the headquarters of all tehsils and they controlled a total of 139 panchayats. Of these, 59 were under the jurisdiction of the Barmer tehsil panchayat, 17 under Pachpadra, 17 Siwana, 28 Chohtan and 18 under the Shiv tehsil panchayat. It was laid down that a panchayat should have not less than five and not more than 15 elected members but provision was made for the appointment by Government of an additional panch belonging to the backward classes if no such person was elected. Each tehsil panchayat consisted of a Sarpanch and six to eight panchas, elected by the members of all panchayats in the tehsil.

The panchayats were given a long list of functions, some obligatory and others discretionary. Among the former were the construction, repair and maintenance of public wells and ponds, sanitation, street maintenance and lighting, registration of births, deaths and marriages, regulation of meals and establishment and maintenance of primary schools. The discretionary duties included tree planting, development of co-operation, famine relief, establishment of reading rooms and measures designed to promote the moral and material well-being of the people. Certain judicial powers were also given; in administrative cases, the panchayat could impose fines up to a maximum of Rs. 15/- and in judicial cases up to Rs. 50/-.

As part of the new set-up of local self-government, it was proposed to set up a District Board under the Rajasthan Act passed for this purpose. This proposal, however, did not materialize and it was finally abandoned when the Government of Rajasthan decided in 1958 to introduce the scheme of democratic decentralization.

## Democratic Decentralization

The Rajasthan Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads Act was passed by the State Vidhan Sabha on September 2, 1959 and received assent seven days later. As a consequence, a three-tier system of local self-government was introduced from October 2, 1959. A description of the main features of the scheme has been reserved for the State Gazetteer; it would be sufficient here to describe the organizational set-up in this district.

As earlier stated, under the Rajasthan Panchayat Act, five tehsil panchayats were formed, controlling a total of 139 panchayats. These panchayats continued to exist when the new scheme was introduced and the tehsil panchayats themselves were not abolished till February 14, 1961. In December 1960, however, the panchayat set-up was completely reorganized so that there are now 247 panchayats covering the whole district and distributed among the eight panchayat samities as follows:—

### 1. Barmer Panchayat Samiti

1. Butiya, 2. Gagra, 3. Bida-ka-par, 4. Pandhi-ka-par, 5. Chadi, 6. Khadeen, 7. Setrao, 8. Ramsar, 9. Bhachwar, 10. Gangala, 11. Indrohi, 12. Siyani, 13. Derasar, 14. Naind, 15. Jasai, 16. Balera, 17. Suracharnan, 18. Bisala, 19. Ranigaon, 20. Dadaka, 21. Marudi, 22. Mahwar, 23. Sanawada, 24. Buthjetmal, 25. Hathitala, 26. Garal, 27. Bhadresgothatra, 28. Dharasar, 29. Taratara, 30. Isrol, 31. Sanan, 32. Leelsar, 33. Bachhadan and 34. Barmer.

### 2. Chohtan Samiti

1. Chohtan, 2. Netrad, 3. Konara, 4. Booth, 5. Itada, 6. Deisar, 7. Bijrad, 8. Atia, 9. Tok, 10. Ramjan-ki-Gafan, 11. Kelnor, 12. Nawatala, 13. Sarup-ka-Tala, 14. Bisasar, 15. Mitawa-ka-Tala, 16. Alamsar, 17. Burhan-ka-Tala, 18. Gohar-ka-Tala, 19. Dhanau, 20. Sawa, 21. Sedwa, 22. Bhanwar, 23. Bijasar, 24. Harpalia, 25. Sarla, 26. Natwatala, 27. Inapalia, 28. Hathala, 29. Tharfa, 30. Faglia, 31. Panoria, 32. Bhakasar and 33. Bhawaria.

### 3. Gura Mallani Samiti

1. Gura Mallani, 2. Bata, 3. Nagar, 4. Medana, 5. Rtanpura, 6. Lunwa Jagir, 7. Jhankarpura, 8. Sidasawa, Harijan, 9. Ghandhwa Kalan, 10. Borcharnan, 11. Piprali, 12. Bhimthal, 13. Ariyanali, 14. Mitra Khurd, 15. Khari, 16. Ranasar Kalan, 17. Koja, 18. Dhorimana, 19. Dundu, 20. Mangta, 21. Lukhu, 22. Udasar, 23. Loharwa, 24. Bamnor (Arnishali), 25. Bisarniya, 26. Kitnorita, 27. Kekar, 28. Sobhala, 29. Baniarla, 30. Bherudi, 31. Bhunia, 32. Ogla and 33. Ganpasara.

### 4. Baitu Samiti

1. Jalia, 2. Kapardi, 3. Bhadkha, 4. Bhurtia, 5. Madpura Bakhala, 6. Tunta, 7. Chhitar-ka-Par, 8. Bannura, 9. Baitu Chimanji, 10. Baitu Panji, 11. Baitu Bhimji, 12. Baitu Bhopji, 13. Kanod, 14. Jajwa, 15. Jhak, 16. Bataddu, 17. Kosaria, 18. Kolu, 19. Bhmda, 20. Akdars, 21. Pannanda, 22. Raten, 23. Kasunpala Bhatina, 24. Sawan Padamsingh, 25. Shahr, 26. Gida, 27. Hira-ki-Dhani, 28. Khohhar, 29. Sohda, 30. Kharda Bharatsingh, 31. Paren, 32. Kunpalia, 33. Kharapar and 34. Sintra.

### 5. Shiv Samiti

1. Sundra, 2. Jaisinghar, 3. Tamlor, 4. Gadra Road, 5. Meisar, 6. Girab, 7. Jhankali, 8. Harsani, 9. Baleva, 10. Mungeria, 11. Shami-ka-Par, 12. Kotra, 13. Gunga, 14. Rajdal, 15. Arang, 16. Dandu, 17. Kashmir, 18. Niyad, 19. Mokhapadala, 20. Shiv and 21. Nimbala.

### 6. Sindhari Samiti

1. Shivkar, 2. Kudla, 3. Chawa, 4. Rawatsar, 5. Nosar, 6. Saram Chimanji, 7. Sanya Manji, 8. Dankha, 9. Sindhari, 10. Bhunka, 11. Sevanwala, 12. Dadali, 13. Ramtai, 14. Kharamahacha, 15. Kosalu, 16. Poyala Khurd, 17. Juna Mita Khurd, 18. Dhanwa, 19. Nokhada, 20. Mehlu, 21. Khudasa, 22. Golia Jet Malan, 23. Sarali, 24. Band, 25. Chhohtu, 26. Adael, 27. Sanjhata, 28. Neewal Kot, 29. Odu, 30. Poyla Kala, 31. Sada and 32. Khadala.

## 7. Pachpadra Samiti

1. Pachpadra, 2. Mungda, 3. Asotra, 4. Kirnod, 5. Kanana, 6. Parlu, 7. Umarlai, 8. Gopadi, 9. Kalyanpura, 10. Doli Kalan, 11. Achrao Chohtan, 12. K. krola, 13. Korna, 14. Sarwari, 15. Maudali, 16. Lob, 17. Patodi, 18. Simarkhia, Kalyan, 19. Badana Bjagir, 20. Jagra, 21. Bagawas, 22. Thumtali, 23. Kalewa, 24. Jasol, 25. Asada, 26. Tapra, 27. Tilwara, 28. Kaludi, 29. Sanjiali, 30. Chandesara and 31. Dudwa.

## 8. Siwana Samiti

1. Mitoda, 2. Podaru, 3. Pau, 4. Kundal, 5. Dharna, 6. Indana, 7. Thapan, 8. Guda, 9. Golia, 10. Dhiara, 11. Bhagwa, 12. Ramkhia, 13. Mokalsar, 14. Devedri, 15. Siwana, 16. Kuship, 17. Maali, 18. Jetantri, 19. Bamsin, 20. Rakhi, 21. Khandap, 22. Sanwali, 23. Karmawas, 24. Samdari, 25. Ranibesipura, 26. Kotri, 27. Majhal, 28. Rampura and 29. Ajit.

The headquarters of the Pachpadra panchayat samiti is at Balotra. The Zila Parishad's office is at district headquarters.

## Nyaya Panchayats

Under the former Act, Panchayats were given certain minor judicial powers. These powers have been taken away so that the local bodies may devote themselves to development work. However, for each group of five to seven panchayat circles nyaya (judicial) panchayat has been set up. These nyaya panchayats have been empowered to try certain minor criminal offences (specified in a schedule attached to the Act) and to impose fines not exceeding Rs. 50. In the event of non-payment, the matter is brought to the notice of the S.D.M. who makes recovery as in the case of fines imposed by himself. In civil cases, these panchayats have jurisdiction for the trial of certain suits not exceeding Rs. 250/- in value. In such cases, if there is difficulty in executing a decree, a report is sent to the munsiff or Civil Judge having jurisdiction for action.

Steps were taken for the formation of 45 nyaya panchayats in this district in December 1960 and the first elections were completed in January, 1961. The set-up is as follows:—

## Baitu Panchayat Samiti

Nyaya Panchayat	Panchayat circles covered
1. Baitu (Rly. Stn.)	1. Baitu Chimanji, 2. Baitu Panji, 3. Baitu Bhimji, 4. Baitu Bhopji, 5. Kolu, 6. Akadara, 7. Panavada.
2. Batadu .. ..	1. Raten, 2. Jhak, 3. Batadu, 4. Kanod, 5. Shehr.
3. Bhadkha .. ..	1. Kapurdi, 2. Bhadkha, 3. Jalipa, 4. Bandra, 5. Bhimda.

## Nyaya Panchayat

## Panchayat circles covered

- |                     |    |  |
|---------------------|----|--|
| 4. Kavas            |    | 1. Bhurtia, 2. Dundha, 3. Madpura Badwala, 4. Chhitar-ka-Par, 5. Kesaria.                |
| 5. Santara          | .. | 1. Paren, 2. Khokhar, 3. Kumpalia, 4. Santara, 5. Khara Par, 6. Kharda Bharatsingh.      |
| 6. Sawan Padamsingh | .. | 1. Sawan Padamsingh, 2. Gida, 3. Hariki-Dhani, 4. Kasumbala Bhatian, 5. Sohda, 6. Jajwa. |

## Barmer Samiti

- |                  |    |   |
|------------------|----|---|
| 1. Barmer (Town) | .. | 1. Barmer Agor, 2. Mahavar, 3. Marudi, 4. Adkha, 5. Jasai.                        |
| 2. Bhachvar      | .. | 1. Chadi, 2. Khadeen, 3. Bhachvar, 4. Gangal, 5. Indrohi, 6. Sihani, 7. Dherasar. |
| 3. Bisala        | .. | 1. Bisala, 2. Nand, 3. Suracharna, 4. Derasar, 5. Bhadres, 6. Gandhar.            |
| 4. Ramsar        | .. | 1. Ramsar, 2. Setren, 3. Buthia, 4. Gagaria, 5. Bindo-ka-par, 6. Padi-ka-Par.     |
| 5. Ranigaon      | .. | 1. Ranigaon, 2. Balera, 3. Taratara, 4. Isrol, 5. Sanau.                          |
| 6. Sanwada       | .. | 1. Sanwada, 2. Booth Jetmalstan, 3. Hathitala, 4. Leelsar, 5. Bachhran, 6. Garal. |

## Chohtan Samiti

- |                   |    |   |
|-------------------|----|---|
| 1. Bhakasar       | .. | 1. Bhakasar, 2. Hathala, 3. Jharpha, 4. Fagalia, 5. Panoria, 6. Bhanwaria, 7. Nawa Tala.                            |
| 2. Burhan-ka-Tala | .. | 1. Burhan-ka-Tala, 2. Alamsar, 3. Gohar-ka-Tala, 4. Binjasar, 5. Dhannu, 6. Sawa, 7. Itada.                         |
| 3. Chohtan        | .. | 1. Chohtan, 2. Netrad, 3. Konara, 4. Boot, 5. Atia, 6. Dhok.  |
| 4. Kelnor         | .. | 1. Ramjan-ki-Gafan, 2. Kelnor, 3. Nawa Tala Jitmalstan, 4. Dedasar, 5. Bijrad, 6. Sarup-ka-Tala, 7. Mithan-ka-Tala. |
| 5. Sedwa          | .. | 1. Sedwa, 2. Bhanwar, 3. Bisasar, 4. Sarla, 5. Harpalia, 6. Japalia.  |

## Gura Mallani Samiti

- |              |    |  |
|--------------|----|--|
| 1. Bamdala   | .. | 1. Bamdala, 2. Kekad, 3. Gengasara, 4. Ogala, 5. Bherundi, 6. Khari.                     |
| 2. Bhunia    | .. | 1. Bhunia, 2. Bisaranina, 3. Kitnor, 4. Bamnor Amir Shah, 5. Ronasar Kalan, 6. Shobhala. |
| 3. Dhorimana | .. | 1. Dhorimana, 2. Mithra Khurd, 3. Kanja, 4. Lukhu, 5. Magata, 6. Dudhu, 7. Loharwa.      |

## Nyaya Panchayat

## Panchayat circles covered

- |    |              |    |    |   |
|----|--------------|----|----|---|
| 4. | ii           | .. | .. | 1. Piprali, 2. Bor Chaman, 3. Arniyali, 4. Bhinthal, 5. Singhasawa Hariyan. |
| 5. | ..           | .. | .. | 1. Bhankarpura, 2. Medana, 3. Lunawa Jagir, 4. Ratampura, 5. Udasar.        |
| 6. | Gura Mallani | .. | .. | 1. Gura Mallani, 2. Nagar, 3. Bata, 4. Gandhar Kalan.                       |

## Pachpadra Samiti

- |    |            |    |    |   |
|----|------------|----|----|---|
| 1. | Jasol      | .. | .. | 1. Jasol, 2. Asada, 3. Jagsa, 4. Tapra, 5. Tilwara, 6. Kaludi.            |
| 2. | Kalyanpura | .. | .. | 1. Kalyanpura, 2. Doli Kalan, 3. Asrava Chohan, 4. Sarwadi, 5. Kakrala.   |
| 3. | Mandli     | .. | .. | 1. Korna, 2. Mandli, 3. Samar Khia Kalan, 4. Bagawas, 5. Thumbali.        |
| 4. | Pachpadra  | .. | .. | 1. Pachpadra, 2. Gopadi, 3. Dudwa, 4. Mungara, 5. Chandesara.             |
| 5. | Parlu      | .. | .. | 1. Parlu, 2. Kanana, 3. Umarlai, 4. Asotara, 5. Kitnod.                   |
| 6. | Pataudi    | .. | .. | 1. Pataudi, 2. Sajiali Padamsingh, 3. Kalewa, 4. Badlmawa Jagir, 5. Thob. |

## Shiv Samiti

- |    |            |    |    |   |
|----|------------|----|----|---|
| 1. | Bhiyad     | .. | .. | 1. Bhiyad, 2. Arang, 3. Undu, 4. Kashmir, 5. Mokhap Kalan.                        |
| 2. | Gadra Road | .. | .. | 1. Sundra, 2. Jaisinghdra, 3. Tamlor, 4. Gadra Road, 5. Medusar.                  |
| 3. | Shiv       | .. | .. | 1. Mungeria, 2. Sami-ka-Gaon, 3. Kotra, 4. Gunga, 5. Rajdal, 6. Shiv, 7. Nimbala. |
| 4. | Harsani    | .. | .. | 1. Harsani, 2. Girab, 3. Jhankali, 4. Balowa.                                     |

## Sindhari Samiti

- |    |          |    |    |   |
|----|----------|----|----|---|
| 1. | Hodu     | .. | .. | 1. Hodu, 2. Sarau Chimanji, 3. Sanjhata, 4. Kamthai, 5. Nimbalkot.                    |
| 2. | Nokhara  | .. | .. | 1. Nokhara, 2. Khudasa, 3. Mehlu, 4. Golia jet Malotan, 5. Waand, 6. Chhotu, 7. Adel. |
| 3. | Nosar    | .. | .. | 1. Nosar, 2. Sevanwala, 3. Sanapa Mani, 4. Dandali, 5. Bhukha Takhsingh.              |
| 4. | Panyala  | .. | .. | 1. Panyala Lalan, 2. Panyala Khurd, 3. Sada, 4. Sudala, 5. Koslu.                     |
| 5. | Rawatsar | .. | .. | 1. Rawatsar, 2. Shivkar, 3. Kudla, 4. Chawa, 5. Sarli.                                |
| 6. | Sindhari | .. | .. | 1. Sindhari, 2. Dankhan, 3. Dhanwa, 4. Juna Mithakhada, 5. Khare Mahecha.             |

Nya, a Panchayat			Panchayat circles covered
Siwana Samiti			
1. Kuship	..	..	1. Indrana, 2. Thapan, 3. Guda, 4. Kuship, 5. Padardi Khurd.
2. Mokalsar	..	..	1. Mokalsar, 2. Ramania, 3. Dhiran, 4. Bhagwa, 5. Rakhi, 6. Khadap.
3. Padru	..	..	1. Mithoda, 2. Padru, 3. Kundal, 4. Dharna, 5. Pan.
4. Samdari	..	..	1. Samdari, 2. Bamsin, 3. Karinawas, 4. Sewali, 5. Jethantari, 6. Ravidasipura.
5. Ajit	..	..	1. Ajit, 2. Rampura, 3. Majhal, 4. Kotari.
6. Siwana ..	..	..	1. Siwana, 2. Devandi, 3. Golia, 4. Meli.



## CHAPTER XIV

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

#### Historical Background

Before the advent of western education, there were few people who could read and write. Education was, in fact, craft-orientated. In some of the temples, the Brahman children were taught the scriptures and the sons of petty chiefs and *jagirdars* learned the arts of war from special instructors. The only institutions which could properly be termed schools were the Marwari *poshals*, where the sons of the merchant and trading community learned the fundamentals of arithmetic and book-keeping.

These *poshals* or *pathshalas* were single-teacher institutions, the teacher (*guru*) being generally supported by donations in kind from the community; rarely, if ever did he receive payment in cash. Admissions were generally made on the occasion of the *Ganesh Chauth* festival, and it was customary to fete the *guru* on this day every year.

Female education was totally neglected, nor were there any facilities for sections of the community other than those stated above.

The first faint glimmerings of education on modern lines did not appear till after the upheaval of 1857; by 1868 two vernacular schools had been established by the Jodhpur Darbar at Barmer and Jasol, respectively where there were about 100 students. These were among the first to be set up in the entire princely State. For some 20 years these were the only schools in the area; then, in 1886-7, three more vernacular schools were established at Chohtan, Gura Mallani and Sindhari, respectively. Later, in 1898, an anglo-vernacular primary school was opened at Balotra.

The five schools in Mallani district, though opened by the Government, were left to depend on the support of the local public and the school at Sindhari was closed in 1893 when the *jagirdars* of that area withdrew their assistance. Possibly because of this, the four remaining State-opened schools were transferred to the charge of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1902-3. Meanwhile,

private schools had been opened at several places and the Darbar established two new schools at Siwana and Shiv, respectively.

Thus, in 1906, the following schools were in existence in the areas now forming Barmer district:—

DARBAR SCHOOLS		PRIVATE SCHOOLS	
Location	No. of pupils	Location	No. of pupils
Balotra (anglo-vernacular)	48	Balotra	50
Barmer	46	Barmer	90
Chhitan	30	Barmer	65
Gura Mallani	24	Chohitan	50
Jasol	33	Jasol	60
Siwana	87	Pachpadra	3
Shiv	12	Pachpadra	20

#### PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Location	No. of pupils
Pachpadra (anglo-vernacular)	2

In receipt of State assistance.

Educational facilities were slowly improved during the first half of the present century, but actual figures for successive decades are not available as the annual Administration Reports of Jodhpur State do not give separate figures for the constituent districts. However, there is mention of a girls' lower middle school being opened at Balotra in 1928-9 and a girls' primary school at Barmer in 1931-32. The latter was raised to middle school standard in 1950-51.

Schools were generally opened by the Darbar on special occasions such as princely birthdays and marriages. In order to maintain a high standard of teaching, the educational authorities insisted that all teachers possess certificates of competency signed by an officer of the Department and that the ratio of pupils to teachers should not exceed 40:1. These instructions also applied to private schools.

By 1951, with the reorganization of educational facilities following the formation of Rajasthan, some of the district schools were upgraded. The middle schools at Barmer and Balotra were

raised to high school status and two primary schools at Barmer and Siwana became middle schools. There was also one middle school for girls at Barmer as well as girls' primary schools at Balotra, Pachpadra and Siwana. Only one school—at Pachpadra—was listed as a Vernacular primary school. There were in all 29 lower primary schools, at the following places: Barmer (3), Asada, Chohtan, Chuli, Dhorimana, Gura Mallani, Jasol, Ranigaon, Sindhari, Siyani, Balewa, Gunga, Asotra, Balotra (2), Kithod, Kanana, Pachpadra Salt Line, Parlu, Sarwari, Ajit, Guranal, Khandap, Mokalsar, Motisara, Rakhi and Samdari. Thus, in 1951, at the start of the first plan period, there were only 38 schools in the district serving a total population of more than 441,000.

### GENERAL EDUCATION

During the first and second Plan periods educational facilities have been steadily expanded, though it was not till 1955 that the office of a Deputy Inspector of Schools was established at Barmer. This office was raised to an Inspectorate in 1957. The Inspector of Schools was at first assisted by a Deputy Inspector, who was incharge of the middle schools and five Sub-Deputy Inspectors, stationed at Barmer, Balotra, Chohtan, Siwana and Shiv, respectively, for the primary schools. On the formation of the Panchayat Samities in 1959, control of the primary schools, except seven schools in Barmer and Balotra towns, was entrusted to them. The posts of Sub-Deputy Inspectors were abolished and, instead, each samiti was given an Education Extension Officer to supervise the running of the schools. Thus, there are eight of these officers in the district. The Inspector of Schools and the Deputy Inspector are available to the samities as consultants and they also control the middle and high schools as well as seven primary schools in Barmer and Balotra which have not been handed over to the new local bodies.

The progress of education in recent years may be gauged from the following table showing the number of institutions:—

Type of Institution	1950-51	1956-57	1960-61
High School .. ..	2	2	2
Higher Secondary School	..	1	3
Middle School .. ..	3	16	25
Primary School .. ..	23	209	423

### Primary Schools

The increase in the number of primary schools has been fairly rapid, especially since the Inspectorate was set up. Lack of suitable buildings is an obstacle to the setting up of new schools, as are the difficulties of communication in the interior and the shortage of qualified teachers.

Of the 425 primary schools in existence at the end of 1960-61, seven (five in Barmer and two in Balotra) were directly controlled by the Inspector of Schools, and the following numbers by the various panchayat samities.

Chohtan 51, Pachpadra 56, Siwana 58, Shiv 36, Barmer 62, Baitu 44, Sindhari 45 and Gura Mallani 66. These figures include three girls' primary schools at Pachpadra, Samdari and Siwana, respectively. Girls are also admitted to the other primary schools, but their total number is at present very small.

A total of 28 primary schools are run on basic school lines and 15 of these have facilities for teaching crafts.

The total number of teachers in the primary schools in 1960-61 was about 464 and the total enrolment in the neighbourhood of 14688.

### Middle Schools

Within a period of 10 years the number of middle schools has risen from 3 to 25. Twenty-two of these are directly under the District Inspector of Schools and the remaining three, which are girls' schools, are controlled by the Deputy Inspectress of Schools, Jodhpur. The girls' schools are at Barmer, Balotra and Siwana and the others at the following places:—

Barmer (4), Gadra Road, Pachpadra, Jasol, Khandap, Mokalsar, Kotrij, Kanana, Baitu, Gura Mallani, Gunga, Bisala, Balotra, Karma-was, Parlu, Dhorimana, Ajit, Kawas and Ranigaon. The total number of students in the girls' middle schools is 957 and the number of teachers 32. The other middle schools have a sanctioned teaching strength of 185 and a total enrolment (1960-61 figures) of 6,644.

### Higher Secondary and High Schools

In 1951, the district had two high schools, at Barmer and Balotra. The high school at Barmer has since been converted into a multi-purpose higher secondary school. A new high school has been opened at Siwana and higher secondary schools at Samdari and

Chohtan, respectively. In addition, there is an S.T.C. School (Teachers' Training Institution) at Siwana.

The total number of students attending these schools is 1422 and there are in all 86 teachers.

The two most important institutions are those at Barmer and Balotra. The Barmer school, originally a primary school, became a middle school in 1943 and was raised to high school status the following year. The building was enlarged in 1952-53 and again in 1955-56, when a new block was added. In August 1955 it became a multi-purpose higher secondary school. The school has a library with more than 3,800 books and well equipped science laboratories. Commerce is also taught.

The Balotra school came into existence in 1898 as an anglo-vernacular primary school. It was raised to middle school standard in 1931 and to a high school in 1951. Girl students are admitted to the school, which in 1960-61 had 287 students on the rolls. There is a library of more than 3,200 books and three hostels, one of them for backward class students who are not charged for board and lodging.

Apart from the Balotra hostels, boarding facilities for students coming from the villages have been provided at the following places—Barmer (2 boarding houses) Jasol, Khandap, Siwana, Gura Mallani, Samdari and Balotra. All these are recognised institutions. There are also two other boarding houses at Barmer and two at Balotra managed by Trusts. There are no boarding facilities for girl students.

### Colleges

The district has no college: students desirous of higher education usually go to Jodhpur.

### Private Schools

There is a total of 41 private schools (*poshals*) which are run on the same lines as government schools. Their total enrolment in 1960-61 was about 3,500. Some of them teach up to the higher secondary stage but most are primary schools.

### Literacy

In the Census of 1901, in Jodhpur State 5.4 per cent of the population—10 per cent of the males and 0.3 per cent of the females—were returned as able to read and write and in respect of literacy

Jodhpur stood second among the 20 States and chief-ships of Rajasthan. No separate figures for the Mallani area were, of course, available in this and succeeding Censuses, so it is not possible to estimate with any degree of accuracy the extent of literacy in this area. However, as it lay in a remote and neglected part of the State and schools were fewer in number than in most other districts, it is safe to assume that the percentage was below the general average.

The slow growth of educational facilities over the first half of the century meant that little improvement could be registered in the sphere of literacy. Thus, in the Census of 1951, only 6.2 per cent of the population was found to be literate (able to read and write simple letters in any script). The percentage among males was 11 and among females only 0.66. Also, the percentage was much higher in the urban areas than in the rural areas, being 24.80 (males 43.40 and females 4.20) in the former as against 4.7 per cent (males 8.5 and females 0.37) in the villages. These figures do not include partial literates i.e., who can read but not write. Only five districts in Rajasthan had a lower percentage of literacy.

### **Educational Standards**

In 1951 there were only 348 persons in the district (302 males and 46 females) who had passed the Middle School examination, matriculates numbered 182 (172 males and 10 females) 32, (30 males and 2 females) had passed the Intermediate examination and 31 (28 males and 3 females) were graduates. There were three post-graduates, eight qualified lawyers and only two qualified doctors. This shows the stage of education reached in individual cases, i.e., the matriculates are not included in the list of those having passed the Middle School examination.

The position will, of course, have greatly improved as a result of the rapid increase in the number of schools during the Plan periods, but the figures given underline the fact that, up to 1951, educational facilities were extremely inadequate.

### **Education of Girls**

In the whole district there are only three girls' primary schools at Samdari, Siwana and Pachpadra and three middle schools at Barmer, Siwana and Balotra, respectively. The primary schools are under the control of the respective panchayat samities while the working of the middle schools is supervised by the Deputy Inspectress of Schools at Jodhpur.

The middle school at Barmer started its existence as a single teacher primary school about 1931 and was raised to middle school status in 1950-51. In 1960-61 it had 14 teachers and 400 students. The Balotra school was opened in 1928-9 and became a middle school in 1958. It has nine teachers and 326 students. The third middle school at Siwana, came into existence in 1930 as a primary school and was raised to a middle school in July 1959. It has nine teachers and 258 students.

Thus the facilities for the education of girls are very limited. In theory, girls are admitted to the ordinary schools but in practice few parents are taking advantages of this, so that progress in regard to girls' education is far from satisfactory. To induce parents to allow their girls to attend the village schools, there is a scheme in the third Plan to appoint "School Mothers" whose presence in the schools will, it is felt, reassure orthodox parents that special care will be taken of their children. Also in the third Plan are scholarship schemes for girls and provision for the construction of quarters for lady teachers who, in the absence of this facility, have been reluctant to accept village postings.

#### Education of Backward Classes

Children belonging to backward classes are admitted to all schools. Their number is small but growing. Scholarships to deserving students of these sections of the community are given through the agency of the Samaj Kalyan Vibhag.

#### Professional Schools

The only professional school in the district is a basis S.T.C. School (Teachers' Training School) at Siwana, which was set up in 1959-60. It has six teachers and 100 students on the rolls. All the students receive stipends. The institution is controlled by the District Inspector of Schools.

#### Social Education

Till quite recently the only organized social education activities in the district were in the block areas, where mobile vans moved from village to village showing educational films and arranging concerts and dramas with development themes. Several such shows are organized under the Government of India's Five Year Plan Publicity Programme.

It was not till 1958 that a Social Education Officer was appointed under the Inspector of Schools, charged with the task of

organizing youth, women's and children's club, starting adult literacy classes and undertaking allied social education activities. With the establishment of the new local bodies, two Education Organizers (a man and a woman) have been posted with each panchayat samiti to foster this movement. By the end of 1960-61, a total of 112 adult literacy centres had been started, 57 youth clubs, 19 children's clubs and 12 mahila mandals opened and 17 centres established for training rural youth leaders. There were 56 radio forums as well as 15 libraries and reading rooms established under the programme.

Thus, in a very short period considerable progress has been recorded in the sphere of social education, which is a very necessary adjunct to the programme of planned development.

## CULTURE

### Literature

For the chieftains and jagirdars of Mallani, encouragement of the arts was a luxury they could ill afford. Poets, novelists and musicians born in the area tended to gravitate to Jodhpur, where their gifts could be appreciated and duly rewarded. Hence in this area there is almost a complete lack of noted writers, artists and musicians. The only two names that stand out are those of the dingal poets, Ishwardas Barhat and Badridan Ahda. The former's best known work is "Hari Ras", which has a religious theme. He was born in the village of Bhadrash, eight miles from Barmer, and lived in the 16th century. Badridan Ahda wrote poems about Jagmal, Mallinath and Viramdeo, the brother of Mallinath. "Veermayan", in praise of Viramdeo, is regarded as his best work. It is not known in which century he lived.

Even today there is almost a complete lack of higher cultural activity and no society for the promotion of the arts exists. The rural areas, however, have their own folk literature and dances, which have been described in the chapter "The People".

### Libraries & Museums

At Barmer there is a District Library as well as a Sarvajanik library. Balotra has three libraries. The Collectorate as well as several schools also have libraries. There is no museum.



## CHAPTER XV

### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

#### EARLY HISTORY

Before the introduction of European methods of treatment, the practice of medicine in this area was principally in the hands of four classes of medical men. The most numerous were the *vaid*s or Hindu physicians, many of whom were extremely skilled in herbal remedies and followed the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Their practical knowledge as well as ancient texts were passed on from father to son. The *hakims* or Muslim physicians were mainly of the Unani school and here too the profession was hereditary. Some of these *hakims* are said to have come from as far off as Delhi. The third class was the *Pansaris* or *Attars*, who were prescribing chemists, and the fourth consisted of ascetics who claimed, by virtue of their great piety, to have power over disease and evil spirits. Their methods lay in incantations, charms and symbols.

Surgery had from ancient times been largely in the hands of barbers, but *Zurrahs* or Muslim surgeons were also practising in the 19th century and amputations were often performed by Rajput swordsmen, some of whom could cut through a limb with one sweep. The stump was generally immersed in boiling oil to prevent haemorrhage. Eye treatment was largely the preserve of the Marwar *Sathias* and those hailing from Sojat were much in demand for cataract operations.

The first dispensary on modern lines in the area was opened at Jasol in 1870. Lt. Col. Adams, Administrative Medical Officer in Rajputana at the time, states that in 1897 the dispensary treated 69 in-patients and 4,839 out-patients and that 289 operations were performed.

Another dispensary was opened at the Pachpadra salt station in January 1879. It was intended primarily for the benefit of the employecs of the salt works but no member of the public was turned away. In 1897 the dispensary had a total of 67 in-patients and 1434

out-patients and 79 operations were performed. A third dispensary was opened at Barmer town in May 1893. Four years later it recorded a total of 12 in-patients, 2,529 out-patients and 190 operations performed.

In 1915-16, the dispensary at Jasol was moved to nearby Balotra. From its very inception in 1870, this dispensary had run a branch at Tilwara on the occasion of the annual fair.

Up to 1947, these three dispensaries were the only ones in existence in this area. In 1905-6, the dispensaries treated a total of 138 in-patients and 9,014 out-patients. In 1920-21, the figure for out-patients had risen to 12,664 but there were only 79 in-patients. A total of 435 major and 4,280 minor operations were performed. There was no appreciable change in these figures up to 1940, but in 1950 the dispensaries had a total of 206 in-patients and 74,169 out-patients. Under the Five Year Plans medical facilities were increased, so that in 1960-61 there were 583 in-patients and 1,01,167 out-patients.

Pleas by the people to the Jodhpur Darbar for the setting up of more dispensaries were turned down on the ground of lack of funds. A petition presented in 1930 on behalf of the people of Shiv evoked no response and a similar appeal from Siwana met with a like fate although a local businessman offered a donation of Rs. 20,000 for a dispensary building and the *Hakim* pledged himself to raise Rs. 30,000 from the general public.

Thus, for the most part, prior to the formation of State of Rajasthan, medical facilities were largely available only through *vaids* and *hakims* and, of course, the practitioners of traditional remedies which had little or no basis in science.

## GENERAL STANDARD OF HEALTH

### Vital Statistics

Records of births and deaths are maintained only by the municipalities at Barmer and Balotra, but even these records are incomplete as the citizens are lax in notifying the authorities. Such information as is available is largely obtained from the hospitals and dispensaries and places of disposal of the dead.

According to the Report of the Directorate of Medical and Health Services for 1960, in that year the total number of recorded

Births in the two reporting towns was 265, i.e., a ratio of 8.8 per 1,000 of population while the number of deaths was 267, i.e., a ratio of 8.9 per 1,000 of population. These figures would seem to indicate that the population in the towns is more or less static, but it has to be remembered that whereas almost all deaths can be traced from the records of the burning ghats and burial grounds a large number of births take place in the home and, if not reported, do not come to the notice of the municipal authorities.

Apart from the incompleteness of the municipal records, it is not possible to draw conclusions from these figures for the district as a whole because the reporting area is an infinitesimal fraction of the total. Moreover, in the remoter parts, medical facilities are extremely scarce and the ratio of deaths must inevitably be higher than in the towns.

### Causes of Death

The deaths registered in 1960 were due to the following causes:—

Malaria	..	..	..	..	16
Other fevers	..	..	..	..	110
Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	21
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	6
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	20
Dysentery & Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	9
Cholera	..	..	..	..	211
Injuries and Suicides	..	..	..	..	8
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	77
TOTAL					267

These figures show that the main causes of death are the specific fevers, respiratory diseases and malaria. Small-pox and cholera occasionally assume epidemic form.

The following table shows the total numbers of recorded births and deaths in the municipal areas in recent years:—

Years	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Total Deaths	351	413	224	31	25	267
Total Births	257	573	133	60	120	265
Death rate per thousand	4.7	1.2	10.8	3.2	2.6	8.9
Birth rate per thousand	3.4	1.7	6.4	6.2	12.6	8.8

## Longevity

A sample survey conducted during the 1951 Census showed that 48.5 per cent of the population were under 15 years of age, 30.6 per cent were between 15 and 34 years, 15.5 per cent between 35 and 54 years and only 5.4 per cent were above 55 years of age. In a population which is growing fast, it is inevitable that the percentage of those under 15 years of age should be large. However, the big drop after 34 years suggests that the expectation of life is rather low. One of the main reasons is undoubtedly the arid nature of most of the tract and its extremes of temperature. Life is extremely hard, especially in the sandy north and west of the district, and the people are engaged in a constant struggle for survival. Paradoxically enough, the rigours of the climate keep them relatively free from the common diseases while at the same time making them age rapidly.

The dwellers of the east, round the Luni, have less of a struggle for existence, but this is a malarious tract and the constitutions of the people have been undermined over the generations. Lt. Col. Adams, in his *Medico-Topographical Account of the Western Rajputana States*, published in 1900, states: "In years of heavy rainfall, when the river overflows its banks, the prevalence of (malaria) fever is so great, and it continues for so long into the cold weather, that I have frequently seen the entire population suffering more or less from its effects and hardly able to sow the wheat, although very little more than scattering the seed over the vast area fertilized by the silt carried down by the monsoon floods was required from the husbandman to produce an excellent crop".

The eradication of malaria and the extension of medical facilities generally would undoubtedly increase the expectation of life.

## Common diseases

The following table shows the number of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries for the more common diseases during 1960-61:—

Malaria .. .. .	4,231
Tuberculosis .. .. .	614
Dysentery .. .. .	2,540
Infectious hepatitis .. .. .	129
Influenza .. .. .	137
Veneral Diseases .. .. .	191
Small-pox .. .. .	43
Cataract .. .. .	151
Trachoma .. .. .	439
Glaucoma .. .. .	83

These figures are not comprehensive. Omitted are some respiratory diseases as bronchitis and pneumonia, which claim a large percentage of patients, as well as a long list of other ailments, separate figures for which are not available.

The most common diseases are those of the respiratory tract, their incidence being very high in the cold winter months, and malaria. The number of malaria cases rises steeply in years of good rainfall, particularly if there are floods in the Luni.

An anti-malarial unit, with headquarters at Jalore, has been operating in the district for some years under the National Malaria Control Programme. During the year under review a spleen survey was conducted in 30 villages and 4,947 children were examined. Also, a total of 31,413 houses were sprayed under the programme. Malaria patients accounted for 12 per cent of the total number of patients attending the various hospitals and dispensaries; no separate figures are to be had for those attending the ayurvedic *aushadhalyas* and, of course, large numbers of sufferers in villages away from the medical centres were unable to receive treatments. Since March 1960, the Control Programme has been replaced by the Malaria Eradication Programme. A Unit has been posted at Barmer with its sphere of operation comprising the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer.

The anti-T.B. campaign is conducted through itinerant teams of B.C.G. vaccinators. In 1959-60 a total of 67,252 persons underwent the tuberculin test and 19,627 were vaccinated. In the vast, open spaces this disease is not very common, most of the cases reported being in the towns and especially among women who lead cloistered lives.

As may be expected in a sandy area where high winds blow for most of the year, eye diseases, particularly trachoma, are prevalent. The dependence of the people generally on unsafe drinking water supplies have given rise to numerous stomach and bowel complaints, dysentery and diarrhoea being very common. In Shiv tehsil, where in some places the only sources of drinking water are ponds, the people suffer much from guinea-worm and hepatitis.

Epidemics of measles, typhoid fever and chicken-pox are of occasional occurrence and there has, fortunately, been no major outbreak of cholera in recent years. Small-pox is an ever-present threat, but is being checked by a steady campaign of vaccination.

Teams of vaccinators, formerly attached to the hospitals and dispensaries, are now under the control of the panchayat samities, who send them wherever an outbreak is threatened. During 1959-60, a total of 9,519 vaccinations were recorded.

Two Health Inspectors have been posted in the district, one at Barmer and the other at Balotra. Their duty is to inspect food, ghee, sweets, etc. offered for public sale and to notify the health authorities in the event of a disease breaking out in epidemic form.

### Infirmities

In the 1951 Census Reports, the following figures are given of persons suffering from major infirmities:—

Infirmity			Males	Females	Total
Blindness	..	..	230	210	440
Deaf-mutism	..	..	44	23	67
Insanity	..	..	48	27	75
Leprosy	..	..	11	3	14

There are no special institutions in the district catering for the needs of these groups of sufferers. Many of them are forced to take to begging for a livelihood.

## HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

### Hospitals

There are only three hospitals in the district—one at Barmer, one at Balotra and the third at Pachpadra. The Barmer hospital, started as a dispensary in 1893, is under the control of a medical officer with the designation of Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class I). The hospital has a sanctioned staff of two other doctors, a staff nurse, midwife and two compounders. There are 24 beds for in-patients. There is a pathological laboratory which in 1959-60 carried out 241 examinations.

The Balotra hospital has a sanctioned staff of one doctor, a midwife and two compounders. It has nine beds. Neither of the hospitals has X-Ray facilities, so that serious cases of bone fracture have to be sent to Jodhpur.

The Salt Department of the Government of India had its own hospital at Pachpadra for the benefit of employees of the salt works. On April 1st, 1960, the Salt Department was taken over by Rajasthan Government and since then, the Salt Department has control over this hospital. The Directorate of Medical and Health Services has not yet taken over this hospital. At present the staff consists of a compounder, a ward-boy and a midwife. The Medical Officer, from Pachpadra city makes periodical visits.

### Dispensaries

These have been set up at the following places:—

#### Barmer (3)

The R.A.C. dispensary at Barmer has one doctor and a compounder and a second dispensary at the Police Lines is under the charge of a compounder. The doctor posted at the R.A.C. dispensary is also in-charge of a dispensary for check-post staff at Barmer.

#### Siwana

This dispensary has a doctor, a compounder and a midwife. There are six beds. It was established in September 1950.

#### Pachpadra

The staff here comprises a doctor, a dai and a compounder. The dispensary was established only in August 1955.

### Primary Health Centres

The district has only five primary health centres. These are as follows:—

#### Gunga

The sanctioned staff here consists of two doctors, four midwives, a health visitor, a sanitary inspector, an auxiliary health worker and five compounders.

#### Samdari

There is a doctor assisted by a compounder and four midwives.

#### Mandal

The sanctioned strength is the same as in the case of the Samdari centre.

A fourth primary health centre is being set up at Gura Mallani. There has been some difficulty in recruiting staff for these centres; in

April, 1961 all the posts of midwives were lying vacant and the Samdari dispensary had no doctor and that at Gunga only one. Posts were also lying vacant in the other categories of staff.

#### Aid Posts

In April, 1961 two aid posts were in existence at Bhakasar and Shiv, each in the charge of a compounder.

#### Other Institutions

Maternity and child welfare centres have been set up at Barmer and Balotra, each with a staff consisting of a health visitor and midwife. At Barmer there is also an anti-rabic centre and a family planning centre.

All the above named hospitals, dispensaries and other institutions are under the control of a District Medical and Health Officer stationed at Jalore.

The following table shows the total number of in-patients and out-patients treated in the hospitals and dispensaries of the district during selected years of the period 1950-60:—

Year				In-patients	Out-patients
1951	..	..	..	246	1,08,526
1955	..	..	..	388	70,098
1958	..	..	..	422	75,751
1960	..	..	..	583	1,01,167

In 1959, the latest year for which figures are available, the daily average out-door attendance at the Barmer hospital was 273, at the Balotra hospital 155, at the Siwana dispensary 92, at Pachpadra 84 and at the Shiv dispensary 8. It is interesting in this connection to compare these attendance figures with those for the Jasol (later Balotra) and Barmer dispensaries in the first three decades of the century. In 1905-06, the Jasol dispensary had an average daily out-door attendance of 47.46 and that at Barmer 47.28. In 1915-16, when the Jasol dispensary was transferred to Balotra, the attendance at the new site was 30.81 and that at the Barmer dispensary 56.30. The figures for 1920-21 were 30.42 and 57.11, respectively, and in 1930-31 they were 35.5 and 46.30 respectively.

In the past decade, attendance at the hospitals has fluctuated from year to year, noticeably increasing in seasons of exceptional heat or cold or failure of the scanty monsoon.



## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

## Railway Dispensary

There are two dispensaries, one at Barmer and the other at Samdari, solely for railway employees and their families. The Samdari dispensary is in the charge of an Assistant Surgeon; that at Barmer has a staff comprising an Assistant Surgeon, compounder, nurse, dai and dresser. The dispensaries are small and deal only with ordinary illnesses. Serious cases are sent to Jodhpur. The jurisdiction of the Barmer dispensary is from Barmer to Munabao stations; all stations on the main line from Ajit to Utarlai, and also those on the Pachpadra branch line, come under the Samdari dispensary. A medical van visits each station once a week. In case of emergency, the doctor travels by trolley if no train is running at the time.

These two dispensaries treated a total of 10,404 cases in 1958, 11,463 case in 1959 and 10,337 cases in 1960.

## INDIGENOUS SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

In 1943-44, the then State of Jodhpur extended government patronage to certain ayurvedic *ausdhalyas*. Thus, in 1952-53, there were six of these institutions located at Pachpadra, Patodi, Samdari, Mokalsar, Balotra and Jasol, respectively. By April 1961, the number had risen to 21, each in the charge of a qualified *vaidya*. The work of the *ausdhalyas* is supervised by an Ayurvedic Inspector with headquarters at Jodhpur. The location of these institutions, and the number of patients treated in each in 1960-61 is as follows:—

Location	Tehsil	Patients treated
Barmer	Barmer	1,485
Jasol	Barmer	9,120
Asada	Barmer	8,062
Pachpadra	Pachpadra	9,960
Patodi	Pachpadra	..
Mokalsar	Siwana	9,996
Samdari	Siwana	11,436
Khandap	Siwan	6,408
Kotada	Sheo	2,568
Kalyanjura	Pachpadra	3,204
Chohtan	Chohtan	9,840
Gura Mallani	Barmer	7,884
Gadra Road	Sheo	9,604
Sindhari	Barmer	3,100
Rakhi	Siwana	8,348

Harsani	Sheo	3,072
Bisala	Barmer	13,256
Dhorimana	Barmer	17,592
Baitu	Barmer	320
Kawas	Barmer	583
Balotra	Pachpadra	1,124

### Summary of Medical Facilities

At the time of the Census of 1951, there were only eight registered medical practitioners and 11 *vaidyas*, 1 midwife and 1 nurse in the district. While figures for the 1961 Census are not yet available, the position does not appear to have greatly improved, and the percentage of doctors to total population is less than 2:100,000. Though the population is sparse, the area of the district is vast and shortage of medical facilities is acutely felt. The position is not so bad in the towns and along the railway route generally, but in the remote villages the people have no proper medical facilities, allopathic or indigenous, and rely on the *Bhopas*, *Sadhs* and other exponents of age-old remedies which are ineffective in most cases and often aggravate the condition of the sick.

Fortunately, the people of a desert area have strong constitutions as a result of the constant struggle for existence. The scattered nature of the population, also, has made it easier for the authorities to check the spread of epidemics.

### Research Centres

There are no medical and public health research centres in the district and the only institution which disseminates knowledge on health is the family planning centre at Barmer.

## SANITATION

In the rural areas, where water is scarce and infinitely precious, the climate very dry and healthy and the average number of houses in a village small, sanitary conditions are far better than in the wetter and less sparsely populated parts of the State.

Before the formation of the present district, only in the municipal towns of Barmer and Balotra was much attention paid to sanitation, but in recent years, under the community development programme, efforts have been made in certain areas to improve drinking water supply and to keep the streets free from garbage.

### Main Activities

The activities of the two municipalities in the sphere of sanitation are described in detail in the chapter on Local Self-Government. Some of the more important aspects may, however, be mentioned here.

A post of Sanitary Inspector under the Barmer municipality was created in 1948-49. He is responsible for the general cleanliness of the town. The Inspector at present employs 67 sweepers, who are distributed among the four wards of the municipal area, the work in each ward being supervised by a Jamadar. A similar arrangement exists in Balotra town.

Piped water supply is available only at Barmer and Balotra. The water is filtered but not chlorinated and supply is restricted to two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. Elsewhere, steps have been taken to improve water supply by disinfecting wells, and, in some cases, covering them. However, in a very large number of villages, the people are glad enough to drink from any source of supply, provided it is not too unpleasant to the taste and, the shortage being so acute, men and animals often drink from the same source.

The health authorities make elaborate arrangements for water supply and sanitation at the Tilwara cattle fair every year in order to check the outbreak of any disease in epidemic form. The task of providing such arrangements at other fairs and melas has been entrusted to the panchayat samities.

# CHAPTER XVI

## SOCIAL WELFARE AND PUBLIC LIFE

### SOCIAL WELFARE

#### Labour Welfare

As there is no large industry in the district, the various labour laws relating to working conditions, wages, provident fund and insurance, accident, sickness and maternity benefits, etc., have no application. It has been left to private employers to provide such amenities as they think fit, and as many employers in the small industrial units are running their enterprises on a near-marginal basis the tendency to exploit labour is, perhaps, inevitable. The only exception is in the case of the Pachpadra Salt Works which, being under the management of the Government of Rajasthan, pays higher wages and provides better working conditions and amenities such as rest sheds etc.

Until there is more of industrialization, which will bring labour legislation into force, little can be done in the sphere of labour welfare except through individual effort by employers.

#### Prohibition

Apart from drinking in public, there is no restriction on the consumption of liquor. There is no shop in the area selling foreign-type wines and spirits; a total of 16 shops sell country liquor. There are also 89 licensed shops for the sale of opium and three shops sell hemp drugs. The following table shows the extent of the consumption of intoxicants in the district from 1955-56 to 1960-61:—

(Figures in mounds, seers & chhataks)

Year	Country liquor (in gallons of L.I.)	Opium	Bhang	Ganja
1955-56	0,582.3	82-15-0	21-20-0	1-3-6
1956-57	8,460.9	42-28-0	24-25-0	1-6-8
1957-58	9,912.7	20-9-8	17-10-0	0-20-8
1958-59	8,914.25	13-20-8	24-5-0	1-17-0
1959-60	9,637.56	4-23-2 1 4	21-0-0	..
1960-61	8,970.90	0-38-3	20-0-0	..

(Up to February, 1961)

While the consumption of liquor has remained more or less steady, that of opium has dwindled considerably because of severe restrictions on sale. *Charas* is no longer consumed and *ganja* is now not sold openly. The consumption of *bhang* has remained fairly constant. Because of restrictions on the sale of opium and other drugs, there is a black market in these commodities, though fortunately not on a large scale. It has also not been possible to check completely the illicit distillation of liquor.

### Backward Classes

No area in this district has been notified as a scheduled tribal area. However, in the Census of 1951, the total number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes was given as 10,375 or about 2.3 per cent of the total population; the number will by now have considerably increased. The backward classes here suffer from the same disabilities as in other parts of the country.

### Departmental activities

The Social Welfare Department of the State Government has posted an Inspector in the district to implement certain welfare schemes for these classes. The following schemes were undertaken during the first and second Plan periods:—

Scheme	First Plan	Second Plan
1. Sangkar Kendra .. .. .	1	..
2. Social Education Centres .. .. .	3	..
3. Subsidy to Gadin Lohars for house construction	Rs. 3,000 to 10 families	Rs. 12,600 to 30 families
4. Subsidy to Bhils @ Rs. 250/- per family for house construction .. .. .	..	Rs. 6,500
5. Scholarships and other aid to Scheduled Castes	Rs. 700	Rs. 4,145
6. Light and Water facilities for Scheduled Castes	Rs. 11,800	Rs. 3,100

There is a hostel at Balotra for students belonging to the backward classes where all expenses are borne by the Government. Students belonging to non-backward classes are also permitted to stay in the hostel when accommodation is available but they have to pay for board and lodging.

### Social Welfare Board

The Rajasthan State Social Welfare Board also has opened a Welfare Extension Project in the district. It is located in the town

of Balotra. There are 14 members (ten men and four women) on the governing body. The project, which was inaugurated in April, 1959 has units at Patodi, Pachpadra, Parlu, Jasol, Asora and Kalyanpura and covers a population of 37,600 in 40 villages. The field staff comprises four women village level workers (*gram sevikas*) and a craft instructress (*udyog shikshika*) with a supervisor (*mukhya sevika*) in charge. There is at present no Social Welfare Extension Officer as in most projects run by the Board. Each unit has a children's park, craft centre, social education centre and health centre. Cultural performances are also organized.

The number of persons benefitted through the various schemes is as follows:—

Children's Park	24
Craft Centres	20
Social Education	11
Health Services	20
Cultural Shows	22

#### Voluntary Organizations

There is almost a total lack of voluntary social service organizations. In some villages there are educational institutions called *poshals* which teach Hindi, the *mahajani* method of keeping accounts and also impart religious instruction. These, however, are not social service organizations in the true sense as admission is restricted and fees usually charged. Mention may also be made of private *dharamshalas* in several towns and big villages where travellers can obtain the basic amenities. The Social Welfare Board has a scheme of assistance to deserving private welfare organizations, but no such organization of stature sufficient to attract the attention of the Board exists in the district.

#### Red Cross Society

A branch of the Rajasthan Red Cross Society was established at Barmer on December 5, 1954 with 14 nominated members. Later, as the organization grew in strength and popularity, more members were enrolled and office-bearers elected. The main activities of the Society are attention to the sick and aid to victims of natural calamities. In the hospitals, milk and medicines are given to patients and toys to sick children. During time of famine, the Society sets up aid posts along the routes taken by emigrants and also assists them on their return.

## APPENDIX B

### JODHPORE SALT AGREEMENT

*Dated January 18, 1879.*

*Ratified May 8, 1879.*

#### Article 1

His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpore agrees to suppress and absolutely prohibit and prevent the manufacture of salt within any part of the Jodhpore State except at salt sources administered by the British Government, or worked under special licences from the British Government:

Provided that nothing in this Article shall be held to prohibit the bonafide manufacture of saltpetre at any work existing within the Jodhpore State, or the opening at any time with the previous knowledge of the Political Agent of such new saltpetre works as the Maharaja of Jodhpore may consider necessary.

#### Article 2

His Highness the Maharaja undertakes to prevent the importation into, or exportation from, the Jodhpore State, of any salt whatever, other than salt upon which duty has been levied by the British Government.

#### Article 3

No export or transit duty shall be levied within the Jodhpore State upon salt upon which duty has been levied by the British Government.

#### Article 4

His Highness the Maharaja agrees to lease to the British Government from a date to be fixed by that Government, the right of manufacturing and selling salt at the salt sources or DARIBAS here below named :—

Pachbadra

Phalodi

Didwana

The Luni Tract.

Provided that if the British Government shall at any time cease to carry on or permit the manufacture of salt at any or all of the said salt

sources, they shall equitably compensate all proprietors of private works therein situated and all manufactures therein employed for any losses they may in consequence sustain:

Provided also that the Maharaja of Jodhpore shall only be held to transfer to the British Government such rights, property and authority over any works or pits at present existing at any of the said sources as are now actually vested in himself.

#### Article 5

His Highness the Maharaja will, in consultation with the Political Agent, cause each of the four salt sources aforesaid to be demarcated by a line enclosing the whole tract occupied, and shall extend the provisions of Articles 3, 5, 6, and 16 of the Sambhur Lake Treaty of 1870 to the tracts so enclosed, so far as they may be applicable. The British Government agrees to the extension of Articles 10, 14 and 15 of the said Treaty to the said tract.

#### Article 6

The British Government agree to pay annually, in half-yearly instalments, to His Highness the Maharaja for the lease of the four salt sources named in Article 4 (including compensation to all holders of *dharmade* and similar charitable and religious allotments) the following sums in British Indian currency:—

			Rs.
For Didwana	..	..	2,00,000
Pachbadra	..	..	1,70,000
Phalodi	..	..	4,500
Luni Tract	..	..	1,500
			<hr/>
			3,76,000
			<hr/>
And for losses sustained by the suppression of Khari works in khalsa land	..		15,800
			<hr/>
TOTAL	..		3,91,800
			<hr/>

#### Article 7

The losses likely to be incurred by jagirdars and others entitled to share in the rents and revenues of the salt works that will be suppressed under this Agreement having been considered by the British Government and the Maharaja, the British Government further agree to pay annually,



and His Highness the Maharaja undertakes to distribute the indemnities settled, aggregating Rs. 19,595-5-3.

### Article 8

The losses of Kharols and others connected with the manufacture of salt within the Jodhpore State having been considered in concert by the British Government and the Maharaja of Jodhpore, the British Government hereby agree to pay to His Highness the Maharaja the sum of rupees three lakhs by way of compensation to the said persons, and His Highness the Maharaja undertakes to distribute the said sum of rupees three lakhs among the said persons.

### Article 9

If any stocks of salt be found to exist within the Jodhpur State at the time when this Agreement comes into force or when a duty shall be first imposed by the British Government at the aforesaid works on their produce, the Maharaja of Jodhpore will, if so required by the British Government, take possession of such stocks and will give the owners thereof the option either of transferring the salt to the British Government at such equitable valuation as he may fix in concurrence with the Political Agent, or of paying the said Agent such duty not exceeding two rupees eight annas per maund on such salt as the Governor General-in-Council may fix. In the event of the owners as aforesaid accepting the latter alternative they shall be allowed to retain the salt on which the said duty may have been paid, but not otherwise.

### Article 10

In consideration of the loyal and effective observance by His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur of the stipulations in this Agreement regarding the suppression of minor salt works, the indemnities payable to proprietors, the exemptions from transit duty of salt covered by British passes and the prevention of export of other salt, the British Government agree to pay to His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpore the following sums annually :—

		Rs.
On account of transit and export duties on salt	..	25,000
For preventive establishment	.. ..	50,000
For miscellaneous revenue and incidental emoluments	..	50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,25,000</b>

## Article 11

Further more, the British Government agree that, in the event of the total money realizations from the sale of salt at the leased works collectively exceeding in any year the total charges properly debitable against the same, one-half of the said excess shall be made over to His Highness the Maharaja. The accounts rendered by the several British officers in charge of the said sources shall be conclusive evidence as to the amount of such excess.

## Article 12

The British Government agree to deliver annually 2,25,000 maunds of good salt (in half-yearly instalments of 1,12,000 and 1,13,000 maunds respectively) at a price not exceeding eight annas per maund, free of duty to the officers of His Highness the Maharaja for the use of the people of the Jodhpore State. The first instalment of salt shall be claimable on the expiration of six months from the date of the assumption of the management of the works by the British Government, or sooner should the Maharaja desire it and if the requisite quantity be available at the works.

Each instalment shall be removed by the officers of the Maharaja within one year from the date of its falling due, failing which all claim of it or of such portion of it as may remain unremoved shall cease. Not less than one-half of this salt shall be delivered at Pachbadra, and the British Government will endeavour to deliver the remainder from the several works that may be open in such proportions as His Highness the Maharaja may desire.

## Article 13

The British Government agree to deliver annually at Pachbadra 10,000 British Indian maunds of salt of good quality, free of all charges, for the use of His Highness the Maharaja to any officer deputed by His Highness the Maharaja to receive it.

## Article 14

The British Government agree to permit specified petty works to be kept open for the manufacture of *khari* required for industrial purposes, and His Highness the Maharaja agrees so to supervise these works as to prevent their total out-turn in any one year exceeding 20,000 maunds, and to furnish to the British Government annual returns of the out-turn of each of the said works.

**Article 15**

In the event of its being proved by experience that the arrangements made in accordance with this Agreement by His Highness the Maharaja for the safety of the British revenue are practically insufficient, or in the event of it being proved to the full satisfaction of the British Government that the quantity of salt provided for the consumption and use of the people of Jodhpore in Article 12 is materially insufficient, this Agreement will be open to revision.

**Article 16**

This agreement is to come into force from a date to be fixed hereafter by the British Government.

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## APPENDIX C

## Receipts for 1960-61.

(Rupees)

S. No.	Major Heads			1960-61	Remarks
1.	Union Excise Duties	..	..	192.81 1116.89	1309.70
2.	Land Revenue	..	..	911367.46	
3.	State Excise Duties	..	..	474139.38	
4.	Stamps	..	..	158217.60	
5.	Forest	..	..	..	
6.	Registration	..	..	16609.12	
7.	Taxes on Vehicles	..	..	115875.18	
8.	Sales Tax	..	..	532192.51	
9.	Other Taxes and Duties	..	..	140809.53	
10.	Interest	..	..	48847.53	
11.	Administration of Justice	..	..	11976.44	
12.	Jails and convict settlements	..	..	149.89	
13.	Police	..	..	28402.00	
14.	Education	..	..	22261.86	
15.	Medical	..	..	240.00	
16.	Public Health	..	..	14334.36	
17.	Agriculture	..	..	6046.16	
18.	Veterinary	..	..	228892.49	
19.	Co-operation	..	..	7.24	
20.	Industries and Supplies	..	..	16918.99	
21.	Miscellaneous Departments	..	..	35282.38	
22.	Civil Works	..	..	11976.60	
23.	Receipts in Aid of Superannuation	..	..	1149.16	
24.	Stationery and Printing	..	..	2995.62	
25.	Miscellaneous	..	..	45549.05	
26.	Extraordinary Receipts	..	..	136.17	
27.	Loans and Advances by State Government			301641.55	
TOTAL				3127417.96	

## APPENDIX D

Expenditure for 1960-61.

(Rupees)

S. No	Major Head	1960-61
1.	Land Revenue .. .. .	384482.43
2.	State Excise Duties .. .. .	..
3.	Stamps .. .. .	3254.72
4.	Forest .. .. .	375.00
5.	Registration .. .. .	350.97
6.	Charges on account of Motor Vehicles ..	4790.86
7.	Sales Tax .. .. .	73579.71
8.	Other taxes and duties .. .. .	
9.	Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept .. .. .	..
10.	Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary Revenue .. .. .	..
11.	Interest on debt and other obligations	75220.33
12.	Appropriation for Reduction and Avoid- ance of Debt .. .. .	..
13.	General Administration .. .. .	418142.22
14.	Administration of Justice .. .. .	125528.18
15.	Jails .. .. .	40957.73
16.	Police .. .. .	2526890.20
17.	Scientific Departments .. .. .	1831.00

S. No.	Major Head	1960-61
18.	Education .. .. .	969311.27
19.	Medical .. .. .	77912.23
20.	Public Health .. .. .	370175.62
21.	Agriculture .. .. .	48752.94
22.	Animal Husbandry .. .. .	92005.78
23.	Co-operation .. .. .	120038.60
24.	Industries and Supplies .. .. .	41159.61
25.	Miscellaneous Departments .. .. .	120720.82
26.	Civil works .. .. .	141989.66
27.	Capital outlay or Civil Works financed from Revenue .. .. .	..
28.	Other Revenue expenditure connected with Multipurpose River schemes .. .. .	..
29.	Famine .. .. .	67809.03
30.	Privy purses and allowances of Indian Rulers .. .. .	..
31.	Superannuation allowances and pensions .. .. .	7127.17
32.	Miscellaneous .. .. .	262691.78
33.	Community Development projects, Na- tional Extension Service and Local Development Works .. .. .	1070041.08
4.	Payments of compensations to Land holders etc. on the abolition of Zamindari system .. .. .	567636.64
5.	Capital outlay on schemes of Government .. .. .	..
TOTAL ..		7612775.58

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# PLATES



Head of a male figure  
12<sup>th</sup> century A.D.  
Found at Kuraldu (Mannar)



Head of a female figure

12<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

Found at Kiradu (Marwar)

Head of a female

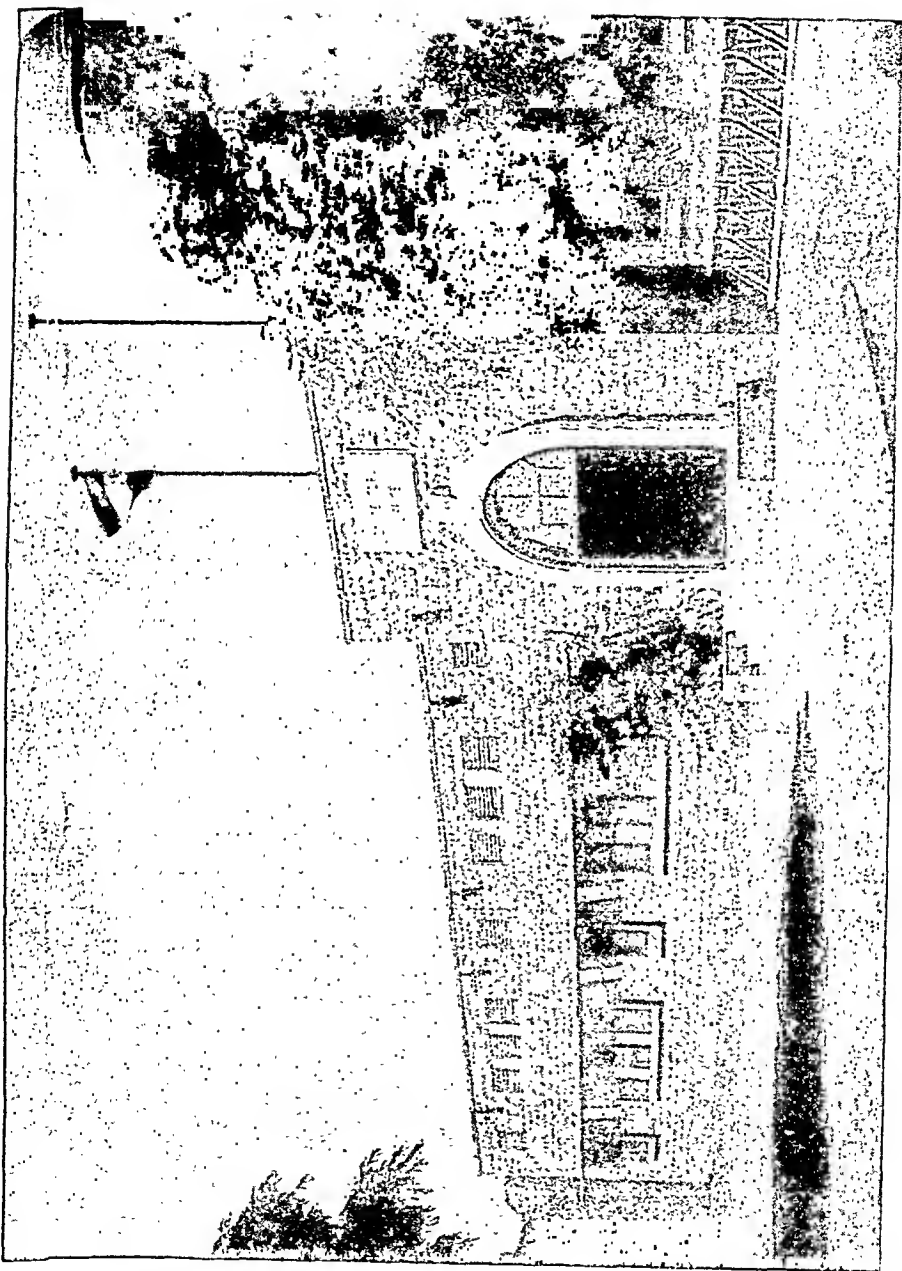
12<sup>th</sup> century

Found at Kiradu



*A view of Barmer Town*

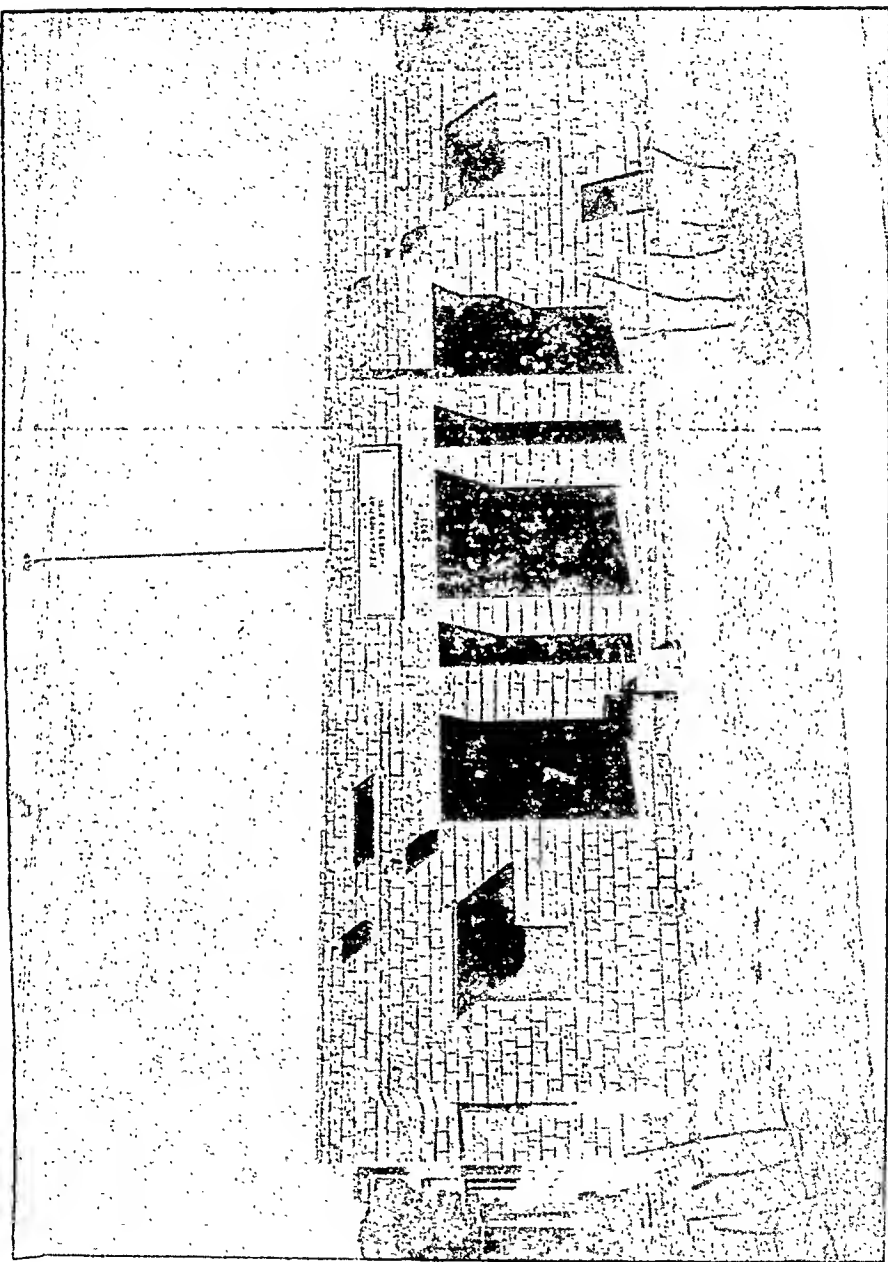




*Collectorate, Barmer.*



*A view of the Tilwara Cattle Fair.*



*P. W. D. building.*